



# VOLUNTEERS TO RUN LIBRARIES

Report by David Callaghan

**LIBRARIES and the archives service in Dudley will be run by volunteers under cost-cutting council plans.**

A not-for-profit organisation will be set up to save Dudley Council £200,000 a year by taking over management of the sites, while paid staff have fewer hours and self-service will be encouraged.

Council chiefs have already announced that opening hours of libraries and the archives service will be slashed as the authority looks to save £20 million over three years.

The new Community Benefit Society model has been agreed in principle by the council's cabinet. Consultation between staff and public began on November 18 and will go on until February 19, 2016.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for adult and community learning, said: "These are unprecedented times for Dudley council with continuous reductions in funding from national government putting intense pressure on local services.

"As part of the council's budget reductions, libraries, archives and adult learning have to achieve a target of 30 per cent savings.

"The mutual model would be a positive outcome from a trying situation, bringing staff, residents and council officers together to deliver an innovative, efficient and sustainable way of working."

## Professional

The libraries and archives service would continue to be run by professional staff, the council says, but would have community, employee and council involvement at board level.

In October, Dudley Council confirmed some library staff will lose their jobs under cost-cutting plans. They will be invited to apply for voluntary redundancy.

It was also announced that Dudley Museum and Art Gallery will close, with up to 275 jobs being lost. The council tax is set to rise following savage cuts across departments, which means less funding for Dudley Zoo and Castle.

The new arrangement would see all libraries, library links and the archive service remain open, with increased customer self-service and reduced staff hours.

Some adult and family learning may be relocated to shared venues but would continue to be funded from national budgets allocated to Dudley Council for community learning.

Dudley libraries, archives and adult learning are nationally recognised among the best in the country, having been shortlisted for awards and winning accolades.

They attract more than 80,000 people to their events each year with 23,000 people visiting Dudley libraries each week. The adult learning service provides learning opportunities to more than 6,000 adults in the borough.

## BOROUGH SET TO SHOW ITS LOVE FOR TENNIS ACE



Wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley from Halesowen will be the first Freewoman of Dudley borough after an hugely successful year

"It is where I spent the first 18 years of my life - so to be recognised there is great." Those are the words of wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley who has spoken of her pride that she is to be given the freedom of the borough in Dudley.

The 23-year-old from Halesowen, who this year was awarded the MBE, has been recognised for her stunning success in the sport which has seen her claim the grand slam in doubles this year as well as her first singles title at the US Open. She will be the first woman to receive the prestigious honour.

"It was a complete surprise," she said. "I feel like I am getting more and more recognition now Paralympic sports are on the map. Since the London 2012 Olympics, every year seems to be getting better and better and I'm hoping by Rio in 2016 some Paralympians will be household names. Before London nobody knew what wheelchair tennis was."

While she has won trophies around the world, Jordanne said it was special to receive recognition at home. She joins the likes of Sir Lenny Henry in having the freedom of Dudley.

But the borough will have to wait before welcoming her home. A busy schedule leading up to the Paralympics in Rio means she is training during December before the Australian Open in January. She said: "It will probably be February before I get back home."

Her father Keith said: "We're so proud of her and this is like the icing on the cake. This has brought home how much people in Dudley are getting behind her."

The former Earls High School pupil will be officially named the borough's first freewoman at a council meeting on Monday.

## RESTAURANT

### 1950s style diner to open at Merry Hill

A CHAIN of retro-style American diners is opening its latest restaurant at Merry Hill shopping centre.

The Ed's Easy Diner at Intu Merry Hill will open on Monday, December 7. The diner will feature 1950s decor, a menu offering burgers, hotdogs and shakes, and a jukebox featuring hits from the rock 'n' roll era. Customers will be able to watch their food being prepared in an open kitchen.

Located on the lower mall, it is the latest in a chain including restaurants in the Bullring and Grand Central in Birmingham.

## FOOTBALL

### Glassboys hope for glamour FA Cup tie

FA Cup fever is starting to grip Stourbridge again as tickets for the town football club's second round tie went on sale this week.

Gary Hackett's Glassboys are just 90 minutes from a potential place in the third round draw alongside Premier League giants. National League side Eastleigh stand in the way of the chance of a money-spinning tie and they visit the War Memorial ground in Ambleside on Saturday, December 5.

● Sport — pages 44 & 45

## SHOPPING

### Free car parking at festive craft market

A CHRISTMAS craft market will be held in Dudley town centre on Sunday.

The event will feature over 20 craft stalls with a variety of handmade gifts on offer including paintings, knitted goods, pottery, wooden crafts, jewellery and festive flower arrangements.

It has been organised by the council's Adult and Community Learning team and many of the regular market stalls will also be trading and other businesses will be open in the town.

The event starts at 10am with free parking on the day at Flood Street and Stafford Street car parks.

## INSIDE

### REVIVAL FOR ROLLER MANIA



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# Caparo sell-off saves more than 70 jobs

MORE than 70 jobs have been saved after part of steel firm Caparo was sold off. Part of the Caparo Industries operation has been sold to Applus+, which operates in more than 70 countries.

Caparo Testing Technologies, including a site at Popes Lane, Oldbury, is the first Caparo business to be sold off since the group went into administration last month.

The move has already seen many firms closed with 323 jobs going across the region.

Administrators PricewaterhouseCoopers said CTT has three other locations and two customer sites across the Midlands and south of the UK.

The business operates in Oldbury, Reigate, Luton and Poole, conducting testing of parts in a range of sectors with a particular focus on aerospace and aviation.

Robert Moran, partner at PwC, leading the Caparo sales process, said: "The sale of Caparo Testing Technologies to Applus+ represents a highly strategic acquisition and demonstrates the quality of this business."

"It is also great news for 76 employees of the Caparo Industries Group. We would like to thank all of the Caparo people involved for their dedicated support in securing this transaction."

"We continue to hold advanced and encouraging

discussions with a number of parties around the sale of remaining Caparo Industries Group companies."

The sale does not include CTT's testing operation at Planetary Road, Willenhall. That business is continuing to operate.

Partners from PwC were appointed as administrators to 16 companies in the Caparo Industries Group on October 19.

Since that sale another part of the collapsed Caparo Industries group, Caparo Wire in Wrexham, has been sold to Rcapital, an investment company which specialises in buying up and turning around struggling businesses.

# Football centre is put on the market for £1m

**A FIVE-A-SIDE football centre in the Black Country has been put up for sale for £1 million.**

But the future of football at the Goals Soccer Centre in Rowley Regis has been assured despite the potential change in ownership at the venue.

Goals has a 55-year lease to host football at the centre in Cakemore Road. The centre is due to be put up for auction on December 8 and carries a guide price of £1 million.

Goals currently pays nearly £52,000 a year in rent. The site covers 4.3 acres and includes 12 pitches as well as a sports pavilion and car park.

There is a bar and spacious seating area near the entrance to the building, while a function suite and children's party room can also be hired.

Goals Soccer Centre has an established reputation among amateur football players in the Black Country for its floodlit all-weather outdoor pitches which are accredited by the Football Association.

Earlier this month, Goals Soccer Centre issued its second profits warning in matter of weeks as its autumn growth targets fell short of expectations.

## Washout

The company, which has another site in Willenhall, warned over profits in September after a washout summer. That announcement led to the company losing one fifth of its stock market value.

Goals' futuristic five-a-side football complex created 25 jobs when it was built in 2008. The site used to be home to both football and bowls teams, with a pitch and green.

But it had been vacant for years and became an overgrown eyesore before Dudley Council's gave the green light to plans for a revamp in late 2007.

After concerns were raised by Sport England about the loss of the natural-grass full-size football pitch, developers promised to bring the site back into use for local 11-a-side teams to use as part of the deal.

At the time Goals managing director Keith Rogers said: "The sports ground had fallen into disrepair and has been overgrown for a number of years. A £2 million investment in sporting facilities has got to be a big plus for the area."

## Medal success in Milan for gymnast



Gymnastics championship Zara-Jade Turton, 15, of Halesowen, with her gold and silver medal haul

A SCHOOLGIRL from Halesowen travelled to Italy to compete in the World Down Syndrome Gymnastics Championships.

Zara-Jade Turton, from Windsor High School, was part of a team of 12 who took part in the competition in Milan.

The 15-year-old's performance won her World Rhythmic Junior champion. She also gained three individual golds and one silver on

the apparatus. She then had the honour of performing at the closing gala, along side many competitors from the 2012 Olympics as well as Rhythmic World Group Champions.

## Parade

She got the chance to lead the British team out in the final parade.

Gymnasts from America, Mexico, Russia and South Africa attended the competition.

Zara-Jade's gymnastics coach, Tracy Bedwell, said: "I was only delighted with Zara's results. Zara is very new to the sport compared to the majority who have been on the international competition circuit for over 15 years."

"This shows the true potential Zara has," she added.

# £3,000 court bill for the landlord of unsafe house

A LANDLORD has received a court bill totalling more than £3,000 after allowing a Rowley Regis house to fall into serious disrepair.

Adnan Rashid failed to attend court and was found guilty in his absence for failing to comply with an improvement notice served by Sandwell Council.

An officer from the council's housing quality team discovered that the house in Beeches Road had severe damp, mould, broken windows, no heating, unsafe floor covering, defective doors, loose electrical switches and lights, blocked guttering and a damaged roof allowing water to leak into the property.

The council brought the case against Rashid after receiving complaints.

At a hearing on 17 November, Sandwell magistrates were told that Rashid, of Station Road, Brierley Hill, had been unresponsive to all efforts by the council to resolve the issues by negotiation.

Rashid was fined £2,000 and has to pay court costs of £150, a victim surcharge of £120 and £776.36 further costs. This adds up to a total court bill of £3,046.36.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "I am very pleased by the outcome of this case. We will not allow unscrupulous landlords to operate unchallenged in Sandwell. They cause a lot of suffering to their tenants."

Stephen Gabriel, the council's strategic manager for homes, said: "All landlords have a legal responsibility to keep their properties in a good state of repair."

# Sixth form open day at academy

A CRADLEY Heath school is to host its annual open day next month.

Ormiston Forge Academy Sixth Form, on Wrights Lane, is throwing open its doors to prospective post-sixteen students on Wednesday, December 2.

People who are due to start post-16 studies in September 2016 are invited to visit to get a taste of life in the academy's sixth form. Visitors will be able to learn about courses on offer, while university representatives will help students plan their future.

Principal Andrew Burns said: "In the summer we achieved our best ever results and the support we offer students both pastorally and academically is second-to-none. Each and every student is important to us."

The event runs from 5pm to 7pm.

# Town choral society plan carol concert

HALESOWEN Choral Society will be singing festive favourites and traditional carols at their Christmas Music by Candlelight concert on December 12. Tickets for the event, at St Margaret's Church in Hasbury, are £8. See [www.halesowenchoralsociety.org](http://www.halesowenchoralsociety.org) website.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## College holds its annual graduation

HALESOWEN College has held its annual graduation ceremony for 65 students.

The college has a range of Higher Education courses in partnership with the University of Worcester and Newman University. Students graduated in a subjects including biology, sports, health and social care, education and training, animal management, applied chemistry, music and media.

Keith Bate, principal at Halesowen College, said: "Congratulations to all our students who have graduated, they have all worked extremely hard."

## Councillor facing a police inquiry

A LABOUR councillor has been suspended from the party pending the outcome of a police probe.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, a ward member for Wordsley, has been placed on 'immediate administrative suspension', officials have confirmed.

Councillor Hemingsley, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, of Penzer Street, Kingswinford, was elected to Dudley Council in 2012. He is a governor at Belle Vue School, chairman of the Friends of Wordsley Park and a campaigner against speeding motorists. He has been asked not to attend any governor meetings at the school.

## Crafts made by elderly as gifts

A GRAND Christmas fair which aims to raise money for Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen is on Saturday.

The event is from 11am at Age Concern, The Elton Centre at St John's, St John's Road, and will be raising awareness of the services available at the centre, whilst also raising money to support their activities.

Handmade crafts produced by those attending the centre's craft classes are among the items on sale. Entrance is 30p.

## Website is launched to showcase town traders

A WEBSITE providing community news and promoting town businesses has been launched in Halesowen.

Halesowen's Chamber of Trade is behind the site which will act as a 'shop window' that will show the best the town has to offer. Its purpose is to attract new visitors and welcome back locals to shops, cafes and restaurants.

Chamber chairman Wayne Edwards is encouraging all local businesses to get involved by being listed on the site at [www.halesowentowncentre.co.uk](http://www.halesowentowncentre.co.uk)

## Stars cooking at NEC

SATURDAY Kitchen host James Martin, Mary Berry, Paul Hollywood and The Hairy Bikers are among the stars appearing at the BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham. The four-day event at the NEC starts today (Thu) and features hundreds of stalls and a series of talks by celebrity chefs.

## Shirt shop on move due to its expansion

BOSTIN Black Country Mon, a well-known shop selling T-shirts with slogans from the region, is moving as part of an expansion.

The Teet Shirts shop is in Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath, but from December 5 it will be reopening in Dudley.

The move, described as a 'spiritual home coming', is set to create one new job in the New Year and will also see the firm change name to Black Country T Shirts.

Company director Stephen Pitts said: "We wanted to create a brand that the Black Country could be proud of and get behind."

### Castle

"The new name and logo, which incorporates the Black Country Flag, gives us a clearer representation of that. The store really feels like a kind of spiritual home coming for us when you stand outside looking up to Dudley Castle."

"This new store will not only increase our custom printing capacity but we will also have a retail area more than twice the size of our shop in Cradley Heath."

He added: "We won't create any new jobs when we open but the plan is we should have one new opportunity in the early new year."

The T-shirt shop will also house a meeting point for the Black Country Festival, where people can discuss and get advice on putting on community events throughout the area during July's annual celebrations.

## Charity's award for Margaret, 69

A CHARITY worker has won a national award for 25 years of service.

Margaret Pigott, from Cradley Heath, received the President's Certificate of Appreciation from Barnardo's. She is currently based at Black Country Roots in Cradley, which works with children and provides family support.

Margaret, aged 69, said: "It was very nice to have my length of service recognised."

"I knew nothing at all about Barnardo's when I first started. Since then I've worked across several offices and watched the charity change. We used to have lots of groups and activities inside the offices but now much of it is done out in the community. I still love the role even after 25 years. The staff are absolutely wonderful."

## Rock band James to play city's arena

MANCHESTER rock band James will play Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on May 30. Tickets are on sale now for the tour that follows the release of their 14th studio album *Girl At The End Of The World* on March 18.

# Tributes pour in for public servant Mary



Councillor Mary Roberts

A COUNCILLOR who has served Dudley residents for the past eight years has died after a long illness.

Tributes have been paid to 'loved and respected' Mary Roberts, who had represented the St James's ward since 2007.

Councillor Roberts, who was re-elected to the ward in 2011 and in May this year, was vice-chairwoman of the authority's audit and standards committee.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho said she would be missed by her colleagues at the authority. "Our thoughts are with Mary's closest friends and family at this very sad time," he said.

"Mary served the council with great honour over the best part of the last decade and she will certainly be missed by all."

Councillor Roberts was a member of the council's health scrutiny committee, licensing and safety committee and the Castle and Priory, St Thomas's and St James's community forum.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "Mary spent her whole life in the service of others as a great teacher and a wonderful councillor. Many people will have led more fulfilled lives as a result of her work as a teacher and she helped hun-

dreds of families and community groups during her eight years on the council.

"She was loved and respected by councillors from all parties and she'll be missed by us all. I'll never forget the encouragement, advice, help and support she always gave me."

"Many people in Dudley have lost a very good friend."

Mrs Roberts had taught at Princes End Primary School, in Tipton.

Her daughter, Paula, a GP, said her mother was dedicated to her community work and her family, including two granddaughters.

# Pub battle victory as next door shop refused

CONTROVERSIAL plans to build a shop next to a popular Cradley Heath pub have been thrown out by councillors.

New River Retail wanted to build a Co-op store next to the Haden Cross on Halesowen Road but the application has been refused by Sandwell Council's planning committee.

Delighted campaigners who feared the arrival of the store would have had a damaging effect on the pub have welcomed the decision.

The Haden Cross was one of 200 pubs bought by New River from brewer Marston's.

Under the plans, a garage near the pub would have been demolished to make way for the shop and it would also have resulted in the loss of the pub's beer garden.

But councillors on the planning committee, who met last week, were not prepared to back the plans, refusing them on the grounds that the shop would have been 'over-development' of the area and out of character.

There were also concerns about the impact the store would have on neighbouring homes as well as the pub.

The decision represents a major victory for campaigners who felt the shop would put the pub's future in jeopardy.

### Thrilled

Following the meeting, Tim Haskey, from the Friends of Haden Cross group, said pub regulars were hoping to put the uncertainty surrounding the pub's future behind them.

"We are thrilled with the support to the community demonstrated by Sandwell Council officers and councillors, who we were confident all along we would be able to rely on despite the best endeavours of New River Retail," he said.

"The last 12 months has been disturbing for the local community and regular users of the pub, who we now feel can finally relax and enjoy the benefits that it offers already as a community hub."

"The Haden Cross Inn has served the local community for more than 100 years and has huge potential to grow and thrive beyond what it does at present. If New River does not see this as a significant investment opportunity, maybe it is time for them to consider selling the pub as a going and viable concern to somebody who has that vision and passion."

Bosses at New River Retail were unavailable to comment.

## Sorry, but you can't park there!



The silver Vauxhall is on two wheels having mounted the Ford as a parking attempt went badly wrong

AN attempt to reverse park ended up with one car mounting another in Rowley Regis, and the whole thing was caught on camera.

The silver Vauxhall ended up on just two wheels with the other just resting on the side of the dark blue Ford in Fallowfield Road.

The driver's window of the Ford was smashed in the process but no-one was injured.

A picture of the incident was tweeted by Haden Cross Fire Sta-

tion with the message: "Please be careful where you park your car. All ended without injury."

An off-duty fireman, who happened to be at the scene at the time, alerted emergency services to the situation when he saw an elderly man, who was driving the Vauxhall, attempt to reverse park behind the Ford.

He watched in horror as the driver's vehicle somehow mounted the parked car.

A fire crew from Haden Cross Fire Station, along with an ambulance and police, attended the scene at around 9.50am on Wednesday, November 18.

Cliff Page, from Haden Cross Fire Station, said: "We're still unsure as to how it exactly happened. The elderly driver maintains he was just trying to park, whether his foot slipped or he lost control of the gears, we just don't know."

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE massacres in France — I am torn between two opinions, the liberal and the biblical. The liberal is the one that goes, we in the West are partly to blame for the madness of the Middle East. We must therefore sit down and talk with Islamic State, just as we have talked to other psychopathic murderers in the past, from the Mau Mau to the IRA, to work out some long-term settlement and a happy ending. The biblical view is that there can be no happy ending. The tribes of the Middle East have been smiting each other for thousands of years; the killing began long before they saw a British, French or American face. The borders of Islam have always been marked by blood and today's militant Islam is incapable of living at peace with itself, let alone with its neighbours. It has nothing to discuss and there is nothing to negotiate because its aim is our utter destruction. The "hostages" taken in a Paris theatre were no such thing; they were taken not for bargaining but for slaughter. We should therefore do the Old Testament thing and smite our enemies with a vengeance. For every one of us they kill, we kill 1,000 of theirs. Every suicide vest detonated in the West will be repaid, not merely with precision smart bombs but with every weapon in our armoury, including those no-one likes to mention. The biblical solution is to rain fire and brimstone on Islamic State and turn its strongholds into puddles of molten sand.

DONALD Trump who, heaven forbid, might one day become President of the United States, says the Paris massacre would have turned out differently if the French were allowed to carry guns. Can you imagine the carnage if 100 handgun-toting concert-goers had whipped out their Magnums and cut loose in a dark, crowded theatre? Terrorism is scary enough but no less terrifying is how many adult Americans cannot tell the difference between real life and Hollywood.

THE latest Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1) was a puzzle. I can't remember seeing so many grown-up people getting so excited about going to Blackpool. Maybe they hadn't been before.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# UKIP MEP quotes Enoch Powell at Euro meeting

**UKIP councillor and MEP Bill Etheridge directly quoted Enoch Powell at a meeting in the Black Country, saying multiculturalism will 'lead to rivers of blood'.**

The Euro MP spoke out at a public meeting entitled 'In a Europe of Freedom & Direct Democracy' attended by around 20 people.

Mr Etheridge began by saying that Conservative MP **By David Callaghan**

Powell was right when he said 'those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad'. He said: "The creed of multiculturalism is in fact a creed of surrender and it will lead to rivers of blood. A multi-ethnic Britain is fine and works well, a multicultural Britain is diversive not just diverse. Yes, remember where you came from but understand that when you have arrived here you must embrace British values there is no alternative."

### Funeral

In his Rivers of Blood speech in Birmingham in 1968, the then MP for Wolverhampton South West Mr Powell compared the UK's immigration policy to watching a nation piling up its own funeral pyre.

Border control in the wake of the migrant crisis and the Paris terrorist attacks was the main topic at the meeting at the Brambles Hotel in Dudley on Friday night.

Sedgley councillor Mr Etheridge was joined by

fellow UKIP MEP Jill Seymour and The Freedom Association chief executive Simon Richards.

All three spoke of their opposition to staying in the European Union, saying the UK should have the 'freedom to choose its own future' and claimed unregulated migration has invited terrorists into the country.

Mr Etheridge said: "It's madness not to control your own borders, it's madness not to make your own rules and laws and it's madness to see your democracy frittered away by people in Brussels and Strasbourg who care nothing of what local people think."

"The EU controls many aspects of our lives. One of the most important areas it has taken control away from the nation state is immigration."

"They've lost command of border control and we've now ended up in a situation where security is impossible to maintain."

## Locos reunited on SVR line



Richard Cooper of Cradley Heath with the Erlestoke Manor

IT was full steam ahead for locomotive enthusiast Richard Cooper from Cradley Heath as the three Great Western Railway Manor locos were reunited during a special event at the Severn Valley Railway.

All three took hundreds of visitors along the line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth and there were exhibitions and reunions for former railway workers taking place.

The event paid homage to the Cambrian Coast Railway, which ran Manors between Shrewsbury, Aberystwyth and Pwllheli during the age of steam.

The stars on wheels were the last three locomotives to have worked on the line, former GWR locomotives No. 7802 Bradley Manor and No. 7812 Erlestoke Manor along with visiting No. 7820 Dinmore Manor, courtesy of Dinmore Manor Locomotive Ltd.

Lewis Maddox, event co-ordinator, said: "It has been half a century since this last trio of Manors to operate on the Cambrian Line was taken out of service. However, 50 years on, to have all three reunited and in full steam was a wonderful sight to behold."

## Finishing touches at chapel venues

THE £1.2 million renovation of a chapel so it will be able to host weddings and civil ceremonies is nearing completion.

Brides and grooms to be will soon be able to say 'I do' at Grade II-listed former Lye and Wollescote Chapel.

The building is undergoing a massive facelift to turn it into a registration office for civil ceremonies.

West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust has carried out the refurbishment on the site, which was built in 1879 and is made up of two Victorian Gothic-style chapels. One of these will house the registration office and the other a wedding venue.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for corporate and customer services, said: "We are looking forward to opening this unique and stunning ceremony venue thanks to the restoration work which has preserved a slice of local history. Brides-to-be can make provisional bookings for weddings next year when the Wollescote Suite will be ready from April 8."

Dudley registrar will lease the Wollescote Suite, which features much of the former chapel's original Gothic architecture, will hold marriage parties in the region of 40 people. The former Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapel will be renamed The Thomas Robinson Building after the original architect.

On Saturday the chapels are open 10.30am to 1pm.

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# More than 48,000 food parcels handed out to families in crisis

**MORE than 48,000 food parcels were given out to people in crisis in the West Midlands from April to September.**

The Trussell Trust handed out the three-day supply packages to a total of 48,055 people as its foodbank director described need as 'worryingly high'.

More than 3,500 parcels were given out in Quinton, Oldbury and Smethwick alone. The trust, which runs a network of 425 foodbanks across the UK, said that the number of people needing emergency food remains a concern.

## College event is a glimpse of the future

HALESOWEN College stepped into the digital future for its Open Events, with more than 1,500 potential students coming through its doors.

They featured technology including Oculus Rift and Google Cardboard - new systems that bring virtual reality to life.

And visitors could also see the new iPad Robot, which gives students a moveable base for their iPad to be able to have a two-way conversation.

College principal Keith Bate said: "We were delighted to welcome so many people to the college and to promote our new digital technology. This is at the forefront of our teaching and facilities to enhance learning and prepare our students for higher education and the needs of employers."

Altogether the college has spent £20 million upgrading facilities in recent years. The college will be holding further open days on January 23 and March 19.

UK foodbank director, Adrian Curtis said: "Latest foodbank figures are still at worryingly high levels. We look forward to the day that we can announce a decrease in numbers needing foodbanks, and we welcome the fact that latest national figures show a less dramatic rise."

"Whilst we hope that this is a sign that economic recovery is giving more people access to secure work, several foodbanks are reporting that some agencies and charities who would normally refer people in crisis to foodbanks have been unable to do so because funding reductions have caused their services to be squeezed or closed."

### Emergency

The latest figures show that nationally, foodbanks in the Trussell Trust network provided 506,369 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis between April and September, compared to 492,641 people in the same period last year.

The charity runs a network of 425 foodbanks across the UK, with 13 of those based in the West Midlands.

Trussell Trust chief David McAuley, added: "We are investing in additional services at foodbanks that help people to break out of crisis faster. We're seeing really positive results from this."

## Museum win top business prize



The Black Country Living Museum team receives the Chamber of Commerce award for Large Business of the Year

THE Black Country Living Museum was judged the best large businesses in the Black Country at this year's Chamber of Commerce Awards.

With around 400 people in attendance, the Black Country Chamber's awards dinner was at Wolverhampton Racecourse to celebrate local business success.

Ninder Johal, president of Black Country Chamber of Commerce, said: "I would like to congratulate all our winners and thank the many more

businesses who have taken part in the awards this year. Our judges were very impressed with the high standard and diversity of award entries."

"They had some very difficult decisions to make. It was great to see so many people celebrating Black Country business success," he added.

Scooping the title of Large Business of the Year, the Black Country Living Museum is one of the UK's top five open-air museums and the leading authority on Black Country heritage.

The museum has welcomed more than 8 million visitors since it opened nearly 40 years ago.

The judges said The Black Country Living Museum had turned their business around, moving from loss to profit "through an innovative and passionate approach to business".

The museum also won the title of Social Enterprise or Charity of the Year.

The Small Business of the Year was Sandwell Women's Aid.

## Woman cut free from car wreck

A WOMAN was trapped in her car for an hour and firefighters had to cut through the roof to free her following a three-car smash on a rural road near Halesowen last week.

Two cars and a van were involved in the crash which caused the woman's car to spin almost 360-degrees.

Police, fire crews and paramedics were called to Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington, Halesowen, shortly before 4.20pm on Wednesday, November 18. West Midlands Ambulance Service sent two ambulances, a paramedic support officer and an air ambulance crew to the scene.

People in the other cars had been able to leave their vehicles before emergency services arrived. But a woman, believed to be in her 40s, was trapped in a car which had suffered extensive front and rear-end damage. Fire crews used cutting equipment to free her.

Ambulance service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "She was treated for a knee injury, a suspected hip injury and a suspected fractured collarbone. She was immobilised prior to being cut free from the vehicle and had a pelvic binder applied as well as being given pain relief."

The woman was taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. A woman in another car was taken to the same hospital for treatment to minor injuries.

## Olaf and Sven will be at lights switch-on

FAIRGROUND rides, Disney characters and a visit by Santa are in store during a town's Christmas lights switch on. Old Hill is preparing for the festive fixture at Holy Trinity church, Halesowen Road, on Saturday. Characters Olaf and Sven, from Disney's Frozen, will join Santa at the event. The fun is from 3.30pm to 6pm and Santa is expected at 5pm.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews



# Movie has job to make it pay at box office

APPARENTLY the new film about the life of American computer tycoon Steve Jobs hasn't been quite the box office hit that had been hoped for. Just two weeks after its launch, the movie was pulled from more than 2,000 cinemas by Universal, citing fierce competition. Which is surprising really, given its truly unique plot.

I hope I'm not spoiling the story for all those of you who were never going to watch it anyway. But essentially, in the 1970s a bloke with a beard called Steve goes into business with another bloke, who also has a beard and is also called Steve. Things don't work out, they squabble, and Steve – one of them anyway – goes his own way and sets up a rival business. After a lot of navel-gazing and finding himself, Steve is reunited with Steve (the one with the grey beard), and tells him he 'has not been in a good place'. And they launch a computer.

A bit like Alan Sugar. Only without the peeraage or the television show.

Just one question. How did that not smash box-office records?

WESTERN intervention in the Middle East. Disenchantment among a disaffected youth. Lack of educational opportunities and poverty. These are the things the bleeding heart liberals usually blame for the barbaric acts of terror of the kind we have seen recently in Paris.

Not the Prince of Wales, though, he has come up with a far more creative explanation. His Highness says it is all down to global warming. At least when his dad says something crass he usually gives us a laugh.

WEST Mercia's deputy police and crime commissioner Barrie Sheldon has spoken out, saying he wanted to debunk some of the myths about speeding enforcement. He says far from being a cash cow for the police, it has raised less than £1.5 million for the "safety partnership" in 12 months, all of which will be spent on roads. In other words, more speed cameras.

He adds that mobile police speed traps are only set on roads where more than 15 per cent of drivers have been clocked speeding.

But isn't that the wrong way of going about it? Surely the only criteria should be the number of accidents. If people are driving above the speed limit and not causing accidents, then that probably suggests the limit is too low.

Oh, and one other thing. Mr Sheldon admits that he himself has been fined for speeding. Now far be it from me to criticise. Indeed, show me a motorist who never speeds, and I will show you a liar. But when even the man responsible for enforcing the rules on speeding gets caught, doesn't that suggest maybe they are a bit too strict?



Dr Cooke when he retired from Summerhill Surgery, Kingswinford



In theatre — Dr Cooke was a hospital specialist as well as a GP



The young doctor setting out on his long career in medicine

# GP's remarkable life reads just like a book

**JORDAN HARRIS** explores the memoirs of long-serving Black Country GP and author Doctor Edward Cooke

**IN 46 years as a GP, Edward Cooke listened to thousands of stories.**

So, having retired three years ago, there was only one thing to do – write a book about it all.

But rather than pen a straight autobiography, Dr Cooke has put together a collection of anecdotes that he says acts as a historical document of the Black Country, chronicling the area and its people.

Up until his retirement in 2012, he was one of the longest-serving doctors in the Black Country.

However describing his book, entitled *What The – Reflections of a Black Country*, as his story could be stretching the truth a little.

With several previous medical publications, this is his first for a non-medical audience and it portrays the tragedy, drama and comedy that a typical GP comes across.

## Stabbed

From discovering a man who had been stabbed in the chest to his various encounters with badly-behaved children, Dr Cooke's book is not a run-of-the-mill memoir.

Dubbing himself a 'funny doctor', Dr Cooke doesn't choose to wallow in sadness for too long and a funny tale is always just around the corner.

He explained: "In those days, when you were a trainee, you went where you were told but I wanted to come back to the Black Country."

"Because of this rather unusual job I had, I had lots of unusual experiences and because of who I am as a person I would try and connect with my patients by telling them funny stories."

"Several years ago a hard-of-hearing patient told me I should write these down so he could understand them properly, so I did."

"I spent the last five years writing down all of my recollections from memory, from grow-



Retired GP Edward Cooke at his book launch for his collection of memories in *What The*

ing up in the grey Black Country after the Second World War, throughout my career in medicine.

"I did this without telling anyone, not even my wife, and I am extremely proud of the result."

While the tales contained within the book are examples of the stories of real people, it isn't always light reading and Dr Cooke himself has said it is 'not for children'.

The book contains births and deaths, including suicides and even murder.

There are some revelations never previously disclosed, particularly regarding cot deaths.

Some of the stories are emotion stirring tales of people at the lowest point in their lives and in dire need of help.

Dr Cooke, now aged 72, said: "There is a lot of humour in this book but it is also incredibly sad."

"When you become a GP, you spend life's crises with people."

"One night when I was working on call, I had to go out to a home at 3am where a man with lung cancer had burst a blood vessel and was coughing up blood. I knew it was serious and I had to get there quick."

"His son, who was only 23 years old, had locked himself in his bathroom with his father while he was slowly dying, to protect his mother from having to see it."

"The father died and when I left the house his son actually apologised to me for making me come out."

"He wasn't crying when he was mopping his dad's blood up, but he still apologised. I still get emotional to this day when I think of that night."

"Me and that lad still share a bond to this day, that is how you grow as a doctor."

"You have to make sure that your emotions don't get the better of you and always maintain your professionalism."

Dr Cooke's career in medicine has helped him get to know every inch of the Black Country and its people, through good times and bad. His book makes reference to a number of local landmarks and events including the closure of the Bilston Steel Works in 1979. It was an end of era and it shut despite a long fight to save it but Dr Cooke said he wasn't sad to see it go.

He said that for a long time he was 'losing one patient a year' as a result of them working at the steelworks.

He was so concerned about the difficult working conditions that he asked Lord Bilston, the former Wolverhampton South East MP Dennis Turner, who he met as a child and was good friends with, to take him for a tour of the site.

He said: "I know a lot of people were upset when the steel works closed and they still are to this day, but I was delighted to see them go."

"Lord Bilston was a great friend of mine and I didn't mind telling him that the closure was a good thing for me as a doctor."

## Experiences

"I was losing one patient a year for the first ten years of being a doctor to the steelworks because of the conditions people were working in."

Black Country born and bred, Dr Cooke was educated at Dudley Grammar School before studying at The Medical School in Leeds and the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

However, his formative experiences in the Black Country stayed with him and his love for the area brought him back home. He would work for 46 years at Parkfields Medical Centre in Wolverhampton and Summerhill Surgery in Kingswinford, unusually working both as a GP principal and a hospital specialist.

He said: "My father and my grandfather both worked as coalminers and told me I would never follow them, that I was going to become a doctor. I wanted to become a pop star in those days but the medical profession was indeed my calling."

His book is available in paperback and on Kindle from Amazon.

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## When did pension become a benefit?

ANYONE else out there noticing the phrase 'pensioner benefits' rather than just pensions, according to a Commons committee they are 'unsustainable'.

I do not look on myself as receiving benefits. I get a pension which I have earned through paying tax for 50 years, and still do.

I also, like millions of others, paid graduated pension and state earnings related contributions with the promise of receiving a greater state pension on retirement.

Now as demands on the state increase state pensions are referred to as benefits

## Welcome decision by the judges over site

I BELIEVE that my views are very similar to the majority of Dudley residents in welcoming the unanimous decision of the three Judges in the Court of Appeal last week, rejecting the Dudley Muslim Association's appeal.

This will now prevent this incongruous development from dominating the skyline of this ancient and historic borough.

I would hope that all right minded people would commend the local authority on its perseverance in the stance it has taken and I believe that this is indeed a triumph of local democracy, reflecting the majority view of the local electorate.

It is particularly heartening that both major political parties were able to agree on this issue and combine in their opposition to this development in such a prominent location.

**D SEYMOUR**  
Dudley

making many feel guilty for having to rely on them.

A pie chart was shown on BBC, pensions were 50 percent of the welfare budget. Is this a ploy to eventually phase out the right to an automatic state pension? Will the retirement age become a thing of the past with people being signed off as not fit to work in order to receive a 'benefit'.

Benefits are not taxed, so if a state pension is a benefit why is it taxed?

**R GWILLIAMS**  
Brierley Hill

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## PM is not asking enough of the EU

IT is disappointing that Prime Minister David Cameron appears to only be putting four requests for renegotiation to our European Union masters.

It is no secret that he wants the UK to remain in the EU, so if he asks for little and, consequently secures little, he can argue that we should remain.

I have always believed that in negotiations you ask for as much as possible on the basis that you will not get everything but may well get more than you originally wished for.

The UK will not get another chance to negotiate its position in the EU and if we do remain the other

members will expect us to accommodate every demand they make.

We now have a one and only chance to make sure that the UK's membership of the EU is in the UK's interest and does not compromise our own sovereignty or the seniority of our legal processes.

Mr Cameron must take advantage of this opportunity to rectify all of the areas that UK voters are concerned about and I would urge everyone to say to him — if you don't, we are out!

**M CALLADINE**  
Kingswinford

## MaccyD tea, surely some kind of joke?

PLEASE tell me that the letter from C Dawning was a hoax.

No parent would willingly drag their family after school, on two buses, so that they could have their tea at McDonald's.

This generation of young parents have been educated right from primary school about the importance of healthy eating and the message still surrounds them today.

How can it be that some still feed their children at such outlets when it would be healthier, quicker, cheaper and easier to walk round to Aldi and buy nourishing food to feed them with.

In despair,  
**M BILLINGS**  
Oldswinford

## Council to be congratulated

DUDLEY Muslim Association have reacted to the Court of Appeal's ruling by accusing Dudley Council of 'caving in' to pressure from protest groups.

How so? Caving in would have been to accept DMA's out-of-court settlement offer of £300,000 rather than to pursue the due legal process. I have been very critical of Dudley Council in the past, but on this occasion they are to be congratulated on acting absolutely correctly and properly on behalf of the great majority of residents of the borough.

**B WILLIAMS**  
Worsley

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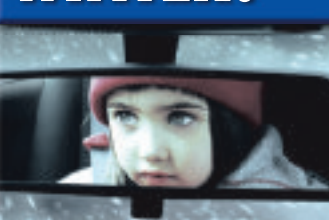
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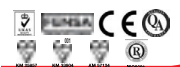
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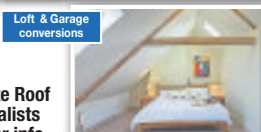
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# Prison for drink-driver after police cars are hit

A BANNED drink-driver who crashed into two police cars during a 15-minute high speed chase is starting a 15-month jail sentence.

Edward Preece had a string of previous convictions for motoring offences and was at the wheel of a stolen Vauxhall Vectra on false plates, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 36-year-old year old ignored a request to stop near the Merry Hill shopping centre after police spotted the vehicle on March 23, four days after it had been reported as missing from a lock up garage in Dudley.

He raced through a string of residential streets in Brierley Hill at twice the 30mph speed limit and reversed into the pursuing police car twice, said Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting.

Preece, who had 19 previous convictions involving 34 offences, also charged through a red traffic light and went the wrong way round a traffic island.

## Whiplash

He finally smashed head on into another police car travelling in the opposite direction in a bid to block his path in Whitegates Road, Brierley Hill. Pc Ian Adams suffered whiplash injuries.

Preece gave a reading of 68 microgrammes of

By John Scott

alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath when tested after the chase. The limit is 35.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, said: "He accepts this was a disgraceful piece of driving and realises he is fortunate that nobody was seriously injured or worse. He has an appalling record that demonstrates his inability to abide by the rules of the road even when banned from doing so by a court order. The car had been stolen by others. He was drinking with people who loaned him the vehicle to drive to the shops and panicked when he saw the police."

Preece, of Parkes Lane, Princess End, admitted dangerous driving, driving while banned and drink driving. He is disqualified from driving for four years on release.

# Nicola has found Dr Whoot a new nest



Nicola Cotton with Dr Whoot, which she bought for £10,500 in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital

A DOCTOR Who themed owl figure that sold for more than £10,000 at auction has taken up his perch at a new home just outside Halesowen.

The Dr Who inspired owl, 'Dr Whoot', from The Big Hoot collection was taken under the wing of Nicola Cotton and is currently in her garage before taking pride of place in a new nursery.

Mrs Cotton, of Romsley, is due to open a new nursery in the former Hagley Police Station building next spring and felt that Dr Whoot would make the perfect accessory, as Dr Who's Tardis is shaped like an old fashioned police box.

"I'd seen the owls across Birmingham as part of The Big Hoot, so decided to go along to the auction," she said. "When it came to Dr Whoot to be auctioned the lights were dimmed and the theme tune to Dr Who was played and dales came out. I ended up winning him for £10,500."

The birds went under the hammer on October 15 at Millennium Point, where they raised more than £500,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital. The Big Hoot saw 89 individually decorated fibreglass owls — each 5ft 5ins tall — dotted across Birmingham in a public art project. Dr Whoot, created by Stephen McKay, was at Snow Hill station during the summer, sponsored by London Midland.

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# Farewell to Bob, the life and soul of party

FROM facing gun-toting men in the African bush to setting up a sauna bath company in the Black Country, Bob Jew had a colourful life.

Tributes are being paid to 'The Major', as he was known, after his death aged 85.

Halesowen-born Mr Jew spread his wings as a young man, developing his wanderlust first during his National Service after the Second World War, when he was based in Trans-Jordan and fought the infamous Zionist group the Stern Gang in Palestine.

He became an army boxing champion in Egypt.

Mr Jew then headed to Nigeria, where he was first a cocoa bean buyer for Rowntree Fry and Cadbury and later general manager of a chain of general stores.

Mr Jew, who grew up in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, with his parents, Arthur and Freda, sister Pauline and brother Ted, often lived deep in the African bush and had to deal with some scary situations – confronting workers brandishing guns during a strike, being robbed and becoming the target of a juju (African black magic) curse.

"Dad was not a man to be bullied and, fortunately, he had the gift of the gab – so he could talk his way out of anything," said his journalist daughter Louise, 58, of Hagley.

"He befriended many Nigerians, to the extent that they made him an honorary African chief and presented him and our mother with an ornate fly swish which they were photographed with when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary nine years ago.

"When we lived in Warri, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh took a fancy to our house, a rather lovely colonial place on the banks of the River Niger and gave our family 24 hours notice to quit. The chief never actually lived there but just put up a sign saying 'Festus Okotie-Eboh owns this house'."

Miss Jew recalls local juju followers hanging a bottle containing a substance cursing her father on the gates



Bob and Barbara Jew on their golden wedding anniversary nine years ago

of the compound where they lived – but the former Halesowen Grammar School boy promptly smashed it.

Mr Jew married Barbara Lucas, from Cradley Heath, in 1956 and she joined him in Nigeria after teaching at a finishing school in Switzerland.

"She gave birth to Louise in Ibadan, Nigeria, and the couple's son, Nigel, was born in Sedgley just over a year later. When they returned to the Black Country in the mid 1960s, Mr Jew had a number of jobs before starting a commercial sauna bath firm from the family's home in Brook Street, Stourbridge.

Son Nigel said: "His distinctive moustache and military bearing

earned him the nickname around Stourbridge of 'The Major', although he never actually held that rank. We had loads of fun with him throughout our lives – he was the life and soul of any party."

Mr Jew, of Whittington Road, Norton, who also leaves grandchildren Luke, Eva, Joe and Danny, died on November 10 – which would have been his late wife's birthday – at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, where he was being treated for bronchopneumonia.

A celebration of his life will be held on December 4 at 12.20pm at Stourbridge Crematorium. Guests are urged to wear their Sunday best in any colour and a flower in memory of Mr Jew.



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## Birthday girl has been visiting zoo since 1930s



Enjoying the birthday trip to the zoo is Barbara with daughters Tina Watson and Sandra Cash, and son-in-law James Cash

**SHE** has visited Dudley Zoo on her birthday almost every year since it opened in 1937 and Barbara Cross has no intention of stopping now — 78 years later.

Mrs Cross made her first visit to the zoo aged 10 and returned on the day she turned 88, the mother-of-five daughters was accompanied by two of her girls, Tina Watson and Sandra Cash, and her son-in-law James Cash.

Mrs Cross recalled many happy memories of trips to the zoo with school friends, her late husband Edward Rhys Cross, and her children

Lynda, Gail, Sandra, Yvonne and Tina, her nine grandchildren and her seven great-grandchildren.

She said: "On my first visit here with a friend I held my hand out to one of the monkeys and he nearly pulled me in with him. There was another time when I tried to get on a camel and I fell off."

"I've seen a lot of changes over the years and there are more animals here now than there used to be. I have had some wonderful days out at the zoo."

The great-grandmother, from Oldbury, said her favourites were the big cats so zoo bosses presented her with a gift adoption pack for lioness Kyra.



Barbara and family at the zoo in 1945

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Original Rollers singer Les McKeown leads the fans in song

# Hospital staff lack faith in workplace

**JUST half the staff at a Black Country hospital would want their friends or family to be looked after there – and even fewer would want them to work there – a survey reveals.**

And the number of workers at most hospital trusts in the Black Country and Staffordshire that would recommend their sites is below the national average.

In Walsall just 51 per cent said they would want loved ones to be admitted to the Manor Hospital, and only 44 per cent would recommend working there.

Meanwhile, only 45 per cent of staff recommended working at Sandwell Hospital, compared with 47 per cent at Dudley's Russells Hall. The national average is 63 per cent.

When asked if they would be happy if their friends or family were admitted to Sandwell, 67 per cent said they would, compared with 77 per cent for Dudley, while in Wolverhampton it was 79 per cent.

University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust was top locally with 83 per cent. The national average is 79 per cent.

## Positive

Bosses say staff made plenty of positive comments in the survey but admit they would like to see an improvement.

It comes as 200 staff at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust face the axe in the new year, which bosses admit has affected morale.

The survey is intended to monitor the mood of staff in the NHS after more than

By Adam Burling

4,000 staff were questioned across the five trusts, so bosses can address any issues that arise from the consultation.

In Sandwell the job losses are the next phase of wider plans by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals Trust to cut around 1,400 posts over five years.

Raffaella Goodby, director of organisation development at Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "We are working hard to improve the experience of staff that work here."

"Our recent workforce changes have been unsettling for many colleagues affected, however we are working hard to redeploy colleagues into other roles within our trust or with other trusts, and to offer support, coaching and skills development."

A message to staff sent with the survey states: "It is hoped that the test will help to promote a big cultural shift in the NHS, where staff have further opportunity and confidence to speak up"

# Petrol stations hit by 22,000 thefts of fuel

CROOKED motorists have driven off from petrol stations in the West Midlands more than 22,000 times without paying in the past five years, latest figures reveal.

This figure includes more than 8,000 drive-offs – known as "biking" – in the last two years.

Aside from Birmingham, which had 8,785 in the last five years, Sandwell was the worst region in the West Midlands for petrol theft with 3,110. There were also 2,839 drive-offs in Dudley (showing a slight decrease), 1,998 in Wolverhampton and 1,592 in Walsall.

West Midlands Police said that most crimes of this nature happen with cars using false plates. Spokesman Lee Page said: "While encouraging businesses to take steps to minimise the likelihood of them becoming a victim – such as operating a pre-pay policy and installing good quality CCTV – we are also working hard to prevent licence plates being stolen by fitting anti-theft screws."

# Roller back the years with pop's Tartan Army

ROLLERMANIA is alive and well in the Black Country.

The Tartan army were out in full force to see original Bay City Rollers frontman Les McKeown and his band take to the stage in Bilston.

Fans joined the lead singer in rolling back the years to hear the legendary Scottish group – the One Direction of the 70s – perform their classic pop hits.

While it's almost 40 years since the multi-million album selling group split, McKeown still knows how to get the crowd going. Females aged from their 20s to their 70s were all under the lead singer's spell at the Robin 2 on Thursday. Fans draped in the iconic tartan flocked to see the one-time teenage heart-throb who, despite being a few years older, continued to work the crowd.

The Bay City Rollers announced

in September that three of the original band members would be reforming, armed with a new album and even a Christmas single.

Mandy Southall, 54, of Limes Avenue, Brierley Hill, who works as a domestic cleaner at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, had bought tickets to celebrate her friend Sandra Carter's 60th birthday. She said: "It was sometime in the 1970s we last saw them live. We were all into the tartan trousers and McKeown was always one of our favourites." Housewife Sandra, also of Limes Avenue, said: "We loved the music but we also loved their looks. I didn't think we would get the chance to see them again."

Crowds hugged and screamed as the band belted out hits from Summerlove Sensation to Bye Bye Baby, giving fans a night to remember.



Bay City Roller fans Mandy Skidmore, Mandy Southall and Sandra Carter party in Bilston like it's 1974

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# Metro Mayor more accountable to public, says Prime Minister

A METRO mayor for the West Midlands will provide 'a very direct form of accountability', the Prime Minister has said.

The region is set to have an elected mayor in 2017 as part of landmark devolution plans announced by the Government.

The West Midlands Combined Authority has signed off on the deal to receive £1 billion in funding and gain more control over regional services, including road and bus networks.

The Government has thrashed out similar deals with Liverpool and Manchester, with those areas also set to elect their own mayors.

David Cameron said: "These big devolution deals, first to Greater Manchester but now to Liverpool and to the West Midlands, mean that we are going to have powerful metro mayors who are accountable to local people for the decisions they make."

## E-cigarettes are banned by train operator

PASSENGERS will no longer be allowed to smoke electronic cigarettes on London Midland trains from the start of next month.

The train operating company, which runs services between Wolverhampton and Birmingham New Street and from Lichfield, Rugeley and Walsall to Birmingham, is introducing a new policy treating e-cigarettes on a par with tobacco.

It will also forbid the use of e-cigs in stations, depots and offices operated by the company.

Other train operators which have already banned them include Southern Railways, Thameslink and Great Northern, TfL, Virgin Northern Rail, ScotRail, Eurostar and Gatwick Express.

"That is a very direct form of accountability and that is why we can be confident of devolving health and social care to those authorities."

"Our country has been too centralised. The great cities of Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool — and soon to be Leeds, I hope — will benefit from these massive devolution deals."

Meanwhile, Government departments could be moved outside London under a bill put forward by a Black Country MP.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin is calling for departments to move as part of his Government Departments Decentralisation Bill, which would transfer up to 100,000 civil service jobs from London to the regions.

Under the plans departments would move to 'public service hubs' around the country where they would share space with other public sector bodies.

Mr Austin said the bill could, for example, see the Department for Business moved to the Black Country, Transport to Birmingham and Culture to Manchester.

He said taxpayers would save £10 billion from the sale of expensive London offices, plus an extra £725 million annually from cheaper costs.

## Pirates ahoy on Treasure Island



James Silvers and Julie Bywater star in Dudley Little Theatre company's production of Treasure Island at Netherton Art Centre

IT will be a swashbuckling night out for all the family as a theatre group prepares to set sail to Treasure Island.

Members of Dudley Little Theatre company are in final rehearsals ahead of staging their 'steam punk' version of the classic adventure by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The group stage the show at Neth-

erton Arts Centre from December 2 to 5 with a special matinee performance on the Saturday afternoon. It tells the story of the battle for the possession of Captain Flint's long-lost treasure after young Jim Hawkins accidentally finds out the secrets of a dangerous gang of pirates and finds himself at the mercy of Long John Silver.

Chris Ridgeway, of Dudley Little Theatre, said the adventure should prove a hit with families. Doors open at the venue, in Northfield Road, from 7pm with curtain up at 7.30pm. The matinee performance is at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £8 and £7 concessions, buy online at [www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org) or by phoning (01384) 872583.

## Shoppers give £10k to the Poppy Appeal

KIND-HEARTED shoppers have raised more than £10,000 through two Poppy Appeals.

Collections held outside Sainsbury's stores in Amblecote and Merry Hill in Brierley Hill reached £10,704. Andy Beardmore, store manager at Sainsbury's Amblecote, said: "The Poppy Appeal was a great success this year and we'd like to thank everyone who contributed."

The £6,386 raised outside the Amblecote store was collected by the local scout group and the Worcestershire branch of the Royal British Legion.

Sales of knitted and crocheted poppies, made by the store's newly formed craft club, contributed £1,000 towards the total.

Members of Quarry Bank Royal British Legion ran the Poppy Appeal in the Merry Hill store and raised £4,318.

### Recycled

Ellie Failes, Corporate Partnerships Manager at The Royal British Legion, said: "We're delighted to be working with Sainsbury's again on their recycling initiative. The donated poppies will either be reused or recycled, so it's another great way for Sainsbury's customers to support us further."

More than 2,000 hand-crafted poppies covered the inside of Dudley's Council House.

## It's strictly Bond music from CBSO and guest

STRICTLY Come Dancing singer Lance Ellington, son of band leader Ray Ellington, is the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's special guest for a James Bond themed concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tomorrow night (Fri).

With the orchestra conducted by Stephen Bell, the concert of Bond movie music starts at 7.30pm. For tickets call 0121 345 0600 or see the [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk) website.

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# The magic behind our... Transformations

**IT'S HARD to imagine that anyone would leave the sunny beaches of Spain or Portugal to find potential life-changing solutions at a dental practice in the Black Country heartland of Dudley.**

But the town's Denture Clinic, considered by some as their final opportunity to find a resolve for long-term teeth problems, has seen patients do just that.

The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and handcrafted on premises at this multi-disciplined dental practice in North Street, also has attracted people from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade, principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have caused unnecessary suffering, eroded confidence,

restricted social engagement and been responsible for shocking dietary regimes.

"Thankfully, we have never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," he says.

"The power of viral marketing never ceases to amaze me as we have never promoted our work beyond the Midlands. But the remarkable reputation the team has built here has found an eager audience – the last challenging case coming from Llandudno," Steven adds.

### Remarkable reputation

Quick to point out, the core philosophy of both his Denture Clinic and North Street Dental & Implant Clinic, Steven says: "We don't sell solutions, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients

make informed choices." There is no charge for an initial consultation and never pressure. "Sometimes I get patients back a couple of times before they commit. The information is free, as is the consultation.

"If something won't work, we'll tell them, but there's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures." It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at Steven's clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster.

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite

literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping smiles, sunken cheeks and pinched lips.

"Our teeth look real – the aesthetics and attention to detail for fit are astounding – and all prescriptions are functional too."

The current palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional prosthetics, implant-retained over-dentures and the most popular of inquiries – suction diaphragm dentures.

"Can dentures ever be glamorous? Emphatically, yes," says Steven, who works hand-in-glove with practice implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGD (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL), and North Street's general dentist, Polly Mineva (GDC 188090), a Doctor of Dental Medicine.

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- **Poor aesthetics** – The Denture Clinic is fastidious about the quality of its prosthetics and 'looking natural' has always been its hallmark.

- **Sore spots** – It's all about getting the fit perfect and with an on-site laboratory and cutting edge diagnostics, the clinic can ensure harmonious mating between gums and prescription.

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## Chicago cast ready to razzle dazzle



**Chicago line-up** — Hayley Tamaddon as Roxie, John Partridge as Billy Flynn and Sam Bailey as Mama Morton

X Factor winner Sam Bailey will be swapping her former real life role as a prison officer to play an inmate when the musical Chicago comes to Wolverhampton on tour.

The singer will play cell block boss Mama Morton when the 1920s-set jazz musical is staged at the Grand Theatre next summer.

Sam Bailey worked as a prison officer at HM Prison Gartree for three years until 2013. At the end of that year Sam won the tenth series of the

X Factor receiving more than a million votes over the course of the final weekend.

### Chart-topper

Following her win, her debut single Skyscraper was the Christmas chart-topper and was followed in 2014 with her debut album, The Power of Love, reaching number one in the album charts.

Hot shot lawyer Billy Flynn will be played by EastEnders actor John Par-

tridge and Coronation Street's Hayley Tamaddon will play nightclub singer turned killer Roxie Hart.

Kander and Ebb's hit show, which was also made into a movie, features famous choreography by Bob Fosse, which recently inspired Georgia Mae Foote and Giovanni Pernice's Charleston on Strictly Come Dancing.

Chicago will be staged at the Grand June 20 to 25 and tickets are already on sale online at grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

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# Gallery strikes back as Star Wars art on show

STAR Wars fever is spreading to Wolverhampton as a collection of rare artwork goes on display.

Various pieces are available from Castle Galleries on Victoria Street ahead of the release of the new Star Wars film, The Force Awakens, in December.

To celebrate the movie's release, publisher Washington Green is releasing six iconic Star Wars Marvel comic book covers as limited edition prints.

Some of the artwork will be available to buy from Castle Galleries.

Marvel's Star Wars series, published between 1977 and 86, was the first official comic book adaptation of Star Wars and proved a phenomenal success on its release. Translated into limited edition art for the first time, the new works pay tribute to some of the franchise's most memorable characters including Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, the Stormtroopers and Darth Vader - widely considered as the greatest villain of all time.

## Shelves

Ian Collunbell, the gallery manager for Wolverhampton's Castle Galleries, said: "Our Marvel artwork releases continue to be best sellers for Castle Galleries, and with the much anticipated launch of The Force Awakens, we expect this series of signed limited edition works to fly off the shelves."

"Marvel and Star Wars are two iconic brands which have individually had a huge impact on today's popular culture. This collection of iconic comic book covers celebrates one of the most famous film franchises of all time and encapsulates the battle between good and evil which both Star Wars and Marvel are recognised for."

"It will appeal to both art collectors and fans of Star Wars alike - giving



Rare Star Wars artwork up for sale



One of the limited edition pieces



The display celebrates the new film



Castle Galleries is showing the prints

people a chance to own their own piece of comic book history."

Each piece of artwork is individually hand signed by Stan Lee, aged 92, a comic book writer, editor and former chairman of Marvel comics.

The images are available to buy from Castle Galleries, Wolverhampton, 62 Victoria Street, WV1 3NX. The new collection consists of six images available in both boxed canvas (edition of 195) and giclée on paper (edition of 295). Prices start from £695, and portfolio sets are also available.

More information is available from www.castlegalleries.com

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# The Vaccines hit Civic like a whirlwind



The Vaccines can still rock up a storm — guitarist Freddie Cowan, left, and frontman Justin Hayward-Young in action

**The Vaccines, Wolverhampton Civic Hall**

IT was blowing a gale outside but it was raining beer inside the Civic as a boisterous crowd moshed along to The Vaccines with a 75-minute set so lively it made a foul Tuesday feel like New Year's Eve.

It was a nice touch to have the lights create the blue, white and red French Tricolore on the backdrop between bands in tribute to rock fans who were killed in Paris four nights earlier.

The headliners had help from two supporters who did a good job of warming up the young crowd.

First up were New York trio Sunflower Bean who made amends for a name that sounds like a hippy-run coffee shop with some sizzling psychedelic rock.

Watching them was like being transported into the universe of Scott Pilgrim due to the gauche glamour of singer/bassist/catwalk model Julia Cumming and the Michael Cera look of guitarist Nick Kivlen. He clearly has the good taste to be influenced by 1970s German band Neu. The debut album is due in February.

Palma Violets are a terrific live band. The London outfit's recorded output doesn't really do justice to the force of nature impact of their endearingly ramshackle stage presence.

With a two-for-one deal on frontmen, Samuel Fryer and rabble-rousing Alexander 'Chilli' Jesson, they swaggered and roared through a set that excitingly teetered on the edge of chaos.

London's The Vaccines hit the indie rock scene like a whirlwind a few years back and they can still rock up a storm, even though third album English Graffiti has taken them into a more commercial direction.

Opening with Handsome from the latest album was like going from 0 to 60 in an instant but they remained in top gear, singer Justin Hayward-Young commanding the stage, bouncing on his toes like a boxer, while Freddie Cowan struck guitar hero poses.

Older tracks like Post Break-Up Sex, Wet Suit, Ghost Town, Bad Mood and final encore Norgaard were the fans' favourites. But the anthemic Give Me A Sign showed that The Vaccines could still make the transition to stadium status.

Leon Burakowski

# Ellie joins the pop elite with Delirium

## ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

**ELLIE** Goulding finally makes the transition to fully-fledged stadium level premier league pop star with *Delirium*, her third album.

The folksy tinge to her voice remains and her love of dance music is still apparent on *Devotion*. But the 28-year-old singer from Herefordshire on this album totally embraces synth pop, exemplified by tracks such as *Codes*.

And she has the anthems to put her in the same ballpark as top modern pop like Taylor Swift's 1989 album, thanks to sure-bet hits like *Scream It Out*, the gospel-tinged *Holding On For Life* and the Shake It Off-like *Around U*.

Ellie Goulding plays Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on March 21 to complete the upward trajectory that started as support act for Little Boots in the Wulfrun Hall a couple of years back.

Cat-in-the-hat jazz singer **Gregory Porter** with the creamy rich vocal has a Special Edition of his Grammy Award-winning 2014 album *Liquid Spirit* out.

The revamp enhances that set of sophisticated soul-infused songs, including the stand-out finger-snapping title track, mellow love song *Hey Laura* and a groovy revamp of Northern Soul classic *The In Crowd*. Added are such standards as *When You Wish Upon A Star*, *Fly Me To The Moon* and *Puttin On The Ritz*.

The bonus tracks also include the Californian singer's collaboration with Jamie Cullum on *Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood*. Gregory Porter will be in concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 24.



Ellie Goulding — her devotion to dance music is still apparent on *Delirium*

Finnish metal quartet **Grave Pleasures** come across like a hard rock Roxy Music on their album *Dreamcrash* due to their English singer Mat McMerney.

Manchester band **Postcards From Jeff** make indie rock in the style of *Kitchens Of Distinction* and *The Editors* on their debut *Modern Language* but are let down by dreary vocals.

Those pining for good old fashioned bluesy rock should check out **Barnance Whitfield & The Savages** on their raw and rocking album *Under The Savage Sky*.

Recently seen supporting James Bay, retro styled singer **Elle King** is pitched somewhere between Imelda May and Meghan Trainor, a rock chick from rural Ohio who shows promise on her debut *Love Stuff*, particularly on the banjo-plucking *Song of Sorrow*, but is not quite the finished article.

Best known for Northern Soul classic *Tainted Love*, American singer **Gloria Jones** was also a backing singer for glam rock stars T Rex and became the girlfriend of Marc Bolan. This CD two-for-one reissues her mid 70s albums *Vixen* and *Windstorm* plus bonus

tracks. Only made two years apart yet these are very different albums. Vixen is caught between glam rock and disco, not doing justice by either genre, including a weak revamp of *Tainted Love* and a dire disco version of *Get It On* (the funkier version on *Part 2* fares better).

But the other songs provided by Bolan, such as *Drive Me Crazy*, *Disco Lady*, *Tell Me Now* and *Sailors Of The Highway* will be of interest to Bolan fans. There is also a decent version of 60s classic *Go Now*.

*Windstorm*, recorded by Jones on returning to America after Bolan's death, is a much classier affair, slick soulful disco with input from such first class musicians as Joe Sample from The Crusaders, Raydio's Ray Parker Jr and several Motown veterans.

**Kool & The Gang** were masters of feel-good soul-pop and a remastered reissue of their 1983 album *In The Heart*, featuring the hits *Joanna*, *Tonight* and *Straight Ahead*, still sounds good more than 30 years later. This set also includes bonus 12in mixes including the classic *Ladies Night*.

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### About The Company

Trevor E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors are a long established firm based in Cradley Heath. Formerly known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons the company was established in 1909 and has been serving Cradley Heath, Halesowen and all the surrounding towns and areas since. In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath to focus on the funeral directing side of business. Along with his wife Rose, the local midwife. They became a large part of the local community, with the local saying being "she brings them in to the world, and he takes them out!" Their son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas, with Bill eventually taking over the business in 1957 after Joe retired. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation.

Trevor inherited J. E. W. Hickton Funeral Directors after his father Bill passed away in 2000. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors. Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2006, followed by his other son Greg in 2010 and finally by his daughter Jodie in 2014.

The family all work together along with a team of long standing and hard working staff. The office staff comprise of former Springfield Post Office manager Mandy Parsons, who looks after the on going funeral arrangements assisted by Jodie, and Kate Davis who has worked for the company for 15 years. Kate is also the company Stone Masonry manager.

In 2014 a brand new dedicated funeral home was built on the grounds of the original funeral home in Lower High Street, to support the needs of the business. Now with three private chapels of rest, three family arrangement rooms and a private working office. The company is able to cater to all needs and requirements of their clients in a friendly and inviting funeral home.

In 2015 the decision was made to renovate the funeral home in Colley Gate with a new reception area and particularly a new shop frontage. The office name was changed to incorporate the Hickton name as many local families were using the office who had before came to Hicktons in Cradley Heath at their time of need, they now have a closer location

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Fri at 8pm, £5  
Newhampton Arts Centre,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.  
Call 01902 572090

**Mumford And Sons**  
Mon at 12am,  
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**Nazareth**  
Thu at 8.30pm, £22  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**The Courteeners**  
Thu at 7pm, £22.50  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,  
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Mainly Madness**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £10 - £12  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**XSLF**  
Fri - Sat at 8pm - 1am,  
The Boars Head, Kidderminster,  
DY10 1EW. Call 01562 861870

**Ruby Ridge**  
Fri at 10pm, £3-5  
The Grapes, Stafford,  
ST16 2HZ. Call 07989 174631

**Reprise Rock and Pop Party Band**  
Sat at 8pm, £2  
Arena Aldridge, Walsall  
WS9 8QR.  
Call 07882 768 104

**The River Rea Band**  
Sat at 8pm, £3  
Knight's Quest  
Rowley Regis, B65 0EE  
Call 0121 561 5599

## JAZZ & BLUES

**Stuart McCallum**  
Thu at 8.30pm - 10.30pm, £10  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

**Metrencia Band**  
Sun at 8pm, Free  
The Grapes  
Stafford, ST16 2HZ  
Call 07989 174631

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Irish Music Session**  
Wed at 8pm,  
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
Call 01384 374410

**Nick Harper**  
Fri at 8pm - 11pm, £13.25  
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.  
Call 0871 472 0400

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**CBSO 2015-16: Beethoven's Eroica**  
Wed at 2.15pm, Thu at 2.15pm,  
£12.50 - £45  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

**Steve Reich's Drumming**  
Tue at 6pm, £4 - £6.50  
Birmingham Conservatoire,  
Birmingham City University,  
B3 3HG.  
Call 0121 331 5901

**Performance Platform: Tasmin Little**  
Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm,  
Birmingham Conservatoire,  
Birmingham City University,  
B3 3HG.  
Call 0121 331 5901

**The 2015 Birmingham International Tattoo**  
Sat at 6pm, Sun at 2pm,  
£17.20 - £28.20  
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
Call 0121 780 4141

**CBSO 2015-16 Friday Night Classics: James Bond**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £47  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

## THEATRE

**Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker**  
Sun at 1pm, Tue at 2pm, 7.30pm,  
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm,  
7.30pm, £19 - £56  
Birmingham Hippodrome,  
B5 4TB.  
Call 0844 338 5000

**Beryl**  
Fri at 2.45pm, 7.45pm, Sat at 7.45pm, £17 - £20  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**Dancing Queen**  
Sat at 7.30pm,  
Palace Theatre, Redditch,  
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

**The Lion The Witch And The Wardrobe**  
Fri at 7pm, Sat at 2pm, 7pm, Mon at 7pm, Thu at 10.15am, 2.30pm,  
£7.50 - £35  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
B1 2EP.  
Call 0121 236 4455

**Guys And Dolls**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,  
Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £47.50  
New Alexandra Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DS.  
Call 0844 871 3011

**Treasure Island**  
Fri at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7pm, Sun at 1pm, 5pm,  
Tue at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Wed at 10.15am, 1.30pm, Thu at 10.15am, 1.30pm,  
The Old Rep Theatre,  
Birmingham, B5 4DY.  
Call 0121 605 5116

**White Christmas: South Staffs Musical Theatre Company**  
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm,  
7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,  
£10 - £19.50  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 573320

**Yvette**  
Wed at 7.30pm,  
Newhampton Arts Centre,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.  
Call 01902 572090

**A Murder Is Announced**  
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,  
7.30pm,  
£15.50 - £26  
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
WV1 1DE.  
Call 01902 573320

**We're Going On A Bear Hunt: Little Angel Theatre (Over 2s)**  
Fri at 10.30am, 1.30pm, Sat at 10.30am, 2pm, Sun at 10.30am, 2pm,  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

## COMEDY

**Stewart Francis: Pun Gent**  
Thu at 8pm - 10.30pm, £17.50  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Sarah Millican: Outsider**  
Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8pm, Sun at 8pm, £25 - £26  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,  
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Jeremy Hardy**  
Fri at 8pm,  
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
Call 01527 577330

**Dave Gorman: Gets Straight To The Point (The PowerPoint)**  
Sun at 7pm - 8pm, 8pm, £24  
Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall,  
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

**Sean McLoughlin: Whatever It Takes**  
Sun at 8.15pm,  
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

## TALKS

**Blofeld & Baxter: Rogues On The Road**  
Fri at 7.30pm, £20.35  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
Birmingham, B12 9QH.  
Call 0121 446 3232

**An Audience With "Gazza" Paul Gascoigne**  
Mon at 7pm - 11.30pm,  
£20 - £100  
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,  
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

## ART EXHIBITIONS

**This Is Not A Joke**  
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm,  
Mon - Thu at 10am - 5pm  
Wolverhampton Art Gallery,  
WV1 1DU.  
Call 01902 552055

**Jessica Holt**  
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm,  
Sun at 12pm - 4pm,  
Tue at 10am - 5pm  
The New Art Gallery Walsall,  
WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

## OTHER EVENTS

**Motorcycle Live**  
Sat - Thu from 9am  
The NEC Birmingham,  
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**The Robin 2 Record & CD Fair**  
Sun at 11am - 4pm, Free  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

**BBC Good Food Show Winter**  
Fri, Sat at 9.30am - 6pm,  
Sun at 9.30am - 5pm,  
£21.75 - £94  
The NEC, Birmingham,  
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Ballet's Christmas cracker returns

**BIRMINGHAM** Royal Ballet have brought their annual Christmas treat, The Nutcracker, to Birmingham Hippodrome.

The sumptuous fantasy danced to the music of Tchaikovsky will be staged from tomorrow (Fri) until Sunday, December 13.

In 1890 Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet moved from London to the West Midlands to become Birmingham Royal Ballet in what was described as 'the arts coup of the decade'.

In celebration of this momentous occasion Sir Peter Wright assembled a stellar creative team, including designer John F Macfarlane, to create his famous production of The Nutcracker for the city of Birmingham.

A quarter of a century later, the classic production which has captured the hearts and imaginations of generations of theatregoers returns to the BRB's home theatre to celebrate its silver anniversary.

In what has now become an annual tradition for many families, Sir Peter's production will have been performed in Birmingham a total of 429 times during its 25 sparkling years.

The spectacular sets and costumes see magical creatures come to life, flurries of snow sweep across the stage and an unforgettable transformation sequence with gigantic Christmas tree, which have helped make this production become widely regarded as one of the best in the world.

The Nutcracker tells the tale of young Clara and her Christmas gift of a nutcracker doll, which she receives at a family Christmas party



A magical scene from The Nutcracker with Jenna Roberts as the Snow Fairy

from a mysterious magician. When she sneaks downstairs to play with her doll, on the stroke of midnight she is shrunk to the size of her doll, which must defend her against King Rat's army. So is swept up in a fantastical journey to a magical land where she meets the Snow Fairy, the Sugar

Plum Fairy and, of course, her handsome prince.

Tickets range from £19 to £56 and there will be matinees as well as the nightly 7.30pm performances. Contact the Hurst Street theatre via Birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

## Country life for Outsider Sarah

**SHE** has picked up numerous awards for her witty humour and frankness on her day to day life, so it is no wonder Sarah Millican has her sell-out crowds crying with laughter.

There was no stopping the Geordie lass in entertaining her audience with her side-splitting antics at her recent gig in Telford, and fans of her no-nonsense approach are in for a treat when she performs at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Fri) and Saturday night.

The TV and radio comedy panel regular is currently touring on her latest show Sarah Millican: Outsider which draws upon her recent move to the countryside for some of the biggest laughs.

Her show focused on her family life, tales of her cats: Brody and Ripley, her dog and her new husband. But the comedienne also covers thornier issues, such as body image to bullying. The South Shields comic may also reveal why she was pleased to turn 40 this year.

Sarah has appeared at The Royal Variety Performance and her debut DVD, Chatterbox Live, became the biggest selling stand-up DVD by a female comedian. She has released three more since. She has notched up appearances on top TV shows including QI, Mock the Week, Have I Got News For You, 8 Out of 10 Cats, Live at the Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, and has chatted to Graham Norton, Jonathan Ross and Alan Carr on their respective chat shows.

Sarah's skills are in constantly keeping her audience on their toes with her constant down to earth comedy.

### Tar very much for these rock veterans

KEY gigs over the next few days include wry Australian indie rocker Courtney Barnett at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow (Fri), 80s synth popsters China Crisis at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Sunday and folk-rockers The Waterboys at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Monday.

Punk rock stalwarts in The Jack Tars at Robin 2 on Wednesday include Captain Sensible, Mike Peters and Slim Jim Phantom. Rock veteran Joe Brown will be looking back over a career that stretches from the 1950s, and no doubt plucking his ukulele, at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, and Josh Groban will sing show tunes at a sold out Symphony Hall on Sunday.

### Comedian Dave gets to the point

FANS have two chances to catch stand-up comedian Dave Gorman in the West Midlands on his latest tour, following the success of his Googlewhack and Modern Life Is Goodish shows.

This time the comic from Stafford will use the medium of Powerpoint to reveal his ideas. Dave Gorman Gets Straight to the Point tonight (Thu) at Birmingham's Symphony Hall and again at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Sunday.

Upcoming comedy shows include Sarah Millican (see above), Stewart Francis' Pun Gent Tour at Symphony Hall on December 3, Noel Fielding at the Civic Hall on December 5.

### Young Fathers to join the Modfather

THE Modfather himself, Paul Weller, will be in concert at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham city centre tomorrow (Fri).

The former Jam man's last single was I'm Where I Should Be from his acclaimed 2015 album Saturn's Pattern, and it will be followed by Pick It Up next month.

Weller will be supported by Scottish trio Young Fathers who won the Mercury Prize for debut album Dead last year and this year released second album White Men Are Black Men Too.

It's full-on dance-rock at the Barclaycard Arena with Faithless on December 2 and The Prodigy on December 3.

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# Knights Quest

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SUNDAY NIGHT KARAOKE WITH STARMAKERS**  
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The five-star Hazel Bank Country Hotel in Borrowdale



The rolling hills and twisty Lake District roads

# Leave car behind to see more of the fantastic Lake District

**LOOKING** across across rolling green countryside to the imposing western fells of the Lake District, I remarked: "That's a fantastic view."

"It's the best in the country," replied the host. He certainly had a point. The five-star, multi-award winning Hazel Bank Country House Hotel in Borrowdale has a spectacular vista in virtually any direction. We were about to see a lot of it by bus and boat.

There is no doubt that Lakeland enjoys some of the finest scenery in the country, if not the world, which is why it attracts visitors from all corners of the globe.

With its spectacular mountains and fells, picture postcard lakes and narrow tortuous roads it offers something for just about everyone, even if you have to pack your waterproofs much of the time. Walkers,

By Bill McCarthy

climbers, sailors, rowers, poets and literary giants have all found something to inspire them. Philanthropist John Ruskin and poet Williams Wordsworth put down lasting roots in the area as did children's novelist Beatrix Potter.

Lakeland is not huge and with millions of visitors, many using their cars on the twisty roads and fearsome passes, it can turn a holiday into a traffic-dodging nightmare. So a new initiative to get people more in touch with nature and out of their vehicles has been launched.

The new 'See More' project funded by the Department of Transport is encouraging visitors to leave cars at their hotels and find new ways to explore the Lake District and Cumbria. New additions for 2015 include a tour bus exploring the North Lakes and

extended early evening services on the 'hop on, hop off' Honister Rambler bus service, alongside regular cruises on Derwentwater aboard the Keswick Launch.

Our attempt at dumping the car took us to the swish hotel at Rothwaite in Borrowdale. The seven-bedroom establishment offers five-star accommodation and cuisine for those looking for a quiet break away from it all or more vigorous walks and climbs.

## Bespoke

The family-run establishment offers bespoke rooms with the highest level of fixtures and fittings. A true family establishment, host Gary MacCrae is a Keswick man who knows the area like the back of his hand. He is front of house, his wife Donna does the cooking and their family fill in at various points.

It is just far enough off the road to be a

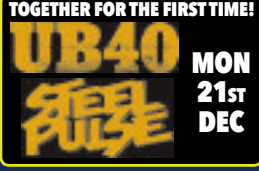
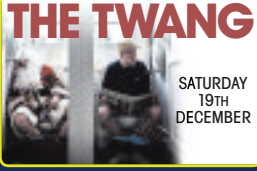
haven for red squirrels, deer and other wildlife, and close enough to the bus stop just 150 yards away.

It is ideally situated for the Honister Rambler, a bus which can take you where others fear to drive, including the Honister Slate Mine and the picturesque village of Buttermere on its circuitous route from Keswick, beyond Derwentwater and back to Keswick. An open-top double decker also operates between villages.

You can comfortably leave your vehicle behind and take advantage of deals such as a joint all-day bus and boat ticket for Derwentwater and the Keswick and Honister area. An Explorer ticket covers the whole of Cumbria and North Lancashire.

Of course, there's also Shanks' Pony and two wheels, but it does make sense to use other transport. The roads can be a nightmare and you miss so much while driving.

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CHOICE



**Guy Martin**

**Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber (Channel 4, 7.30pm)**

It may not have the same name recognition of the Spitfire, but the Vulcan plane played a vital role in protecting UK interests during the Cold War era, and was also responsible for the longest raid in British military history when it was used to attack enemy targets in the Falkland Islands. So, it was only fitting that the last worthy Vulcan bomber, the XH558, was given decent send-off. In the run-up to its final flight, engineer Guy Martin is given unprecedented access to the aircraft, learning more about its history and talking to the crews who faced the awesome responsibility of potentially dropping nuclear bombs. He also gets to fly in formation with the Vulcan.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Fern Britton Meets Shane Lynch. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.10 Formula 1: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The final round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm). 3.15 Escape to the Country. 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 The Hunt. (R) 5.50 BBC News.**

**6.10 Regional Programme.**

**6.20 Countryfile.** John Craven visits a seed bank in Shropshire, where the Woodland Trust is working to preserve Britain's endangered trees. Ellie Harrison meets artist Matt Sewell and learns how he captures the character of birds in his art. Adam Henson investigates a plan to paint cattle to make them more visible to drivers at night, and Tom Heap reports on plans to use insects as feed for farm animals. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.

**7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman reveal the results of last night's votes, before the two lowest scoring pairs compete in a dance-off. Plus, a musical performance from Adam Lambert.

**8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the second visit in this series to Plas Newydd on the Isle of Anglesey. The team examine rarities including a cabinet with a secret function, a magazine rack made by celebrated designer Piero Fornasetti, a collection of historical items related to deafness, a Chinese silver punchbowl and a photo that has a connection to the Apollo 11 mission.

**9.00 The Hunt.** Animals on the hunt in deserts and grasslands, where neither predator or prey has anywhere to hide. Featuring footage of cheetahs, eagles, lions, red rot ants and headlight beetles.

**10.00 BBC News.**

**10.20 Regional Programme.**

**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman introduces highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea at White Hart Lane and Norwich City v Arsenal at Carrow Road.

**11.50 Citizen Khan.** Mr Khan opens a fried chicken shop. (R)

**12.20 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.30 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 7.30 Countryfile. (R) 8.30 An Island Parish: Falklands. (R) 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 10.30 Simply Nigella. (R) 11.00 My Life on a Plate: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 11.50 Tennis: Davis Cup Final. 3.15 Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers. England v Bosnia and Herzegovina (Kick-off 3.30pm). 5.25 Live Snooker: UK Championship.**

**7.00 Robert Peston Goes Shopping.** The history of the retail trade in Britain concludes with a look at how the high street has been hit hard in recent times by the rise in online shopping and the financial crash. From Amazon to Zavvi, and the world's first pop-up mall in east London, Robert shows how the everyday shopping experience has changed and predicts how people will buy their goods in the future. Contributors include Amazon's UK MD Christopher North, ASDS boss Nick Robertson, and Sainsbury's chief Justin King. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Ireland with Simon Reeve.** Part two of two. The second leg of Simon's journey begins at the Giant's Causeway, before visiting a kelp farm on Rathlin Island. He heads to the Dark Hedges in Co Antrim, one of the filming locations from Game of Thrones, and visits Belfast for the July 12 Festivities, discovering how the event has divided the city. He also learns more about Cromwell's influence on Ireland, attends the Gaze film festival, and meets monkeys at an animal sanctuary in the Wicklow mountains.

**9.00 The Secret History of the British Garden.** The extraordinary changes that occurred in the 19th century, as advances in technology made gardens more lavish, but also more widely available. Monty pays a visit to Queen Victoria's royal retreat at Osborne and Derby's Arboretum, which was the country's first public park. He also investigates the scientific secrets behind the establishment of botanical gardens in Kew and Edinburgh.

**10.00 Film: The Cider House Rules. (1999)** Drama, starring Tobey Maguire and Michael Caine.

**12.00 Snooker: UK Championship. 12.50 Snooker: UK Championship Extra. 2.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.45 Holy City. (R) 4.45 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockout Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockout Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knockout Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 7.05 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.45 The Simpsons. (R) 2.20 Emergency Animal Hospital. 3.20 Film: Parental Guidance. (2012) Premiere. Comedy, with Billy Crystal and Bette Midler. 5.25 Film: Sister Act. (1992) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg.**

**7.15 Channel 4 News.**

**7.30 Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber.** The mechanic joins a select crew of engineers working to prepare the last Vulcan bomber that is capable of flight for a farewell tour of the UK. The programme features contributions from former crew members, who recall its service in conflicts from the 1950s to the Falklands, as well as serving as Britain's nuclear deterrent.

**9.00 Homeland.** Carrie realises that she urgently needs Allison's help, while Quinn's plans undergo a significant change. Claire Danes, Miranda Otto, Rupert Friend and Sebastian Koch star.

**10.05 Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

**11.10 Film: Bullet to the Head. (2012)** A hitman and a police detective join forces to seek revenge on the man who murdered both their partners. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang and Christian Slater.

**12.50 Grand Designs Australia.** Peter Maddison meets Sarah and Alistair Brodie-Fraser, a couple planning to build an English-style farmhouse in Queensland. 1.45 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Featuring a man who only cleans his kitchen at Easter and Christmas, and a woman whose three-bedroom flat has not been given proper attention in 19 years. (R) 2.40 Four in a Bed. (R) 4.55 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. Using squid to prepare recipes. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, a-if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.00 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) 6.05 The King of Queens. (R) 6.25 The King of Queens. (R) 6.45 Race of Champions 2015. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 7.05 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.20 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.45 The Simpsons. (R) 2.20 Emergency Animal Hospital. 3.20 Film: Parental Guidance. (2012) Premiere. Comedy, with Billy Crystal and Bette Midler. 5.25 Film: Sister Act. (1992) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg.**

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**10.05 Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)

**11.10 Film: Bullet to the Head. (2012)** A hitman and a police detective join forces to seek revenge on the man who murdered both their partners. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang and Christian Slater.

**12.50 Grand Designs Australia.** Peter Maddison meets Sarah and Alistair Brodie-Fraser, a couple planning to build an English-style farmhouse in Queensland. 1.45 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. Featuring a man who only cleans his kitchen at Easter and Christmas, and a woman whose three-bedroom flat has not been given proper attention in 19 years. (R) 2.40 Four in a Bed. (R) 4.55 Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. Using squid to prepare recipes. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes, a-if they are brave enough to buy it with what they have won. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.30 Ticky Tock. (R) 6.40 Zack and Quack. (R) 6.55 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.15 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.25 Little Princess. (R) 7.45 Pip Ahoy! (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.25 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.40 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 9.00 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.35 Football League Tonight. (R) 12.00 Access. (R) 12.05 Film: Road to Christmas. (2006) Romantic comedy drama, starring Jennifer Grey and Clark Gregg. 1.55 Film: The Heart of Christmas. (2011) Premiere. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. 3.35 Film: The Little Mermaid. (1989) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Jodi Benson. 5.15 Film: Deck the Halls. (2006) Christmas comedy, starring Danny DeVito.**

**7.05 Police Interceptors: Dog Squad.** A look at the police dog teams in the Cleveland and Durham specialist operations unit, observing the highly trained hounds and their handlers in training and in action. (R)

**8.05 Impractical Jokers UK.** The guys pose as reporters getting public reactions to a fictional story, draw portraits of passers-by, queue jump at the theatre, and try to sell a bizarre flat.

**8.30 Impractical Jokers US.** The guys work in a bakery, where they must eat customers' cakes and challenge them to eating contests. The loser then has to pose as an avant garde artist.

**8.55 News Weekend.**

**9.00 Film: Gran Torino. (2008)** Misanthropic Korean War veteran Walt leads an isolated existence, and has a tense relationship with his family and nothing but contempt for his neighbours. When a teenager attempts to steal his prized car, he ends up trying to reform the thief, making a connection with the boy's relatives and defending them from a street gang. Drama, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.

**11.25 Film: Justice. (2011)** Thriller, with Nicolas Cage and January Jones.

**1.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)**

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00 Formula 1: The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix - Highlights. 8.00 Top Gear. 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News. 10.00 Family Guy. 12.20 Josh. 12.50 Rent a Cop. 1.20 Russell Howard's Good News. 1.50 World's Worst Places to Be a Woman? Stacey Dooley investigates. 2.45 Sunny D. 3.00 Footballers: Sex, Money: What's Gone Wrong? 4.00 Close**

**BBC Four**

**7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger. 8.00 Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? 9.00 Film: The Deep (2012). 10.30 The Lighthouse Stevensons. 11.30 Digging for Ireland. 12.30 Horizon: Why Can't We Predict Earthquakes? 1.30 Icebound: The Greatest Dog Story Ever Told. 2.30 Lost Land of the Tiger. 3.00 Close**

**ITV2**

**1.55 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 2.55 Catchphrase. 3.40 Film: Happy Feet (2006). 5.50 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 6.50 Film: The X Factor. 10.00 You've Been Framed! 10.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! Now! 11.35 Plets. 12.35 Reality Bites. 1.20 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. 2.05 Lawson: The Hot Desk. 2.15 Teleshopping. 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen**

**ITV3**

**12.50 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975). 2.50 Midsomer Murders. 6.55 Sunday Night at the Palladium. 7.55 Rosemary & Thyme. 9.00 Colditz. 1.00 Film: Closing the Ring (2007). 1.15 Film: 10 Little Indians (1974)**

**ITV4**

**12.45 Live Darts: Players Championship. The quarter-finals. 5.00 Storage Wars: Texas. 5.55 River Monsters. 7.00 Live Darts: Players Championship. The semi-finals and final. 11.00 Film: Driven (2001). 1.15 Ray Mears' Close Encounters. 2.20 Nitro Circus**

**E4**

**12.30 Film: Astro Boy (2009). 2.20 Rude(ish) Tude Shorts. 2.55 Couples Come Dine with Me. 4.30 The Big Bang Theory. 8.00 Film: The Simpsons Movie (2007). 8.50 The Big Bang Theory. 10.40 The Inbetweeners. 11.50 The IT Crowd. 12.55 Film: Underworld: Awakening (2012). 2.35 Rules of Engagement. 3.20 Hollywoods**

**Film4**

**1.00 Porco Rosso (1992). 1.00 Big Business (1988). 3.00 Anastasia (1997). 4.50 The Three Stooges (2012). 6.40 Cutthroat Island (1995). 9.00 Red (2010). 11.15 Me and You (2012). 1.05 The Station Agent (2003). 3.10 Close**

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**A Christmas Visitor, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A couple have not celebrated Christmas for 11 years, ever since the death of their son in the first Gulf War. However, their spiritual faith is restored when they are visited by a mysterious stranger who is the same age their boy would have been, had he survived. Drama, starring Reagan Pasternak. (2002)

**TUESDAY**  
**Possession, BBC1, 11.50pm**  
Rival academics get embroiled in the hunt for proof that Victorian poets Randolph Henry Ash and Christabel LaMotte were having an affair – but their rivalry is tempered by a seemingly irresistible attraction between them. Drama from playwright Neil LaBute, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. (2002)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**The Road, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
The world is devastated by a cataclysm that wipes out all the plants and animals and leaves the few remaining humans desperately struggling to survive. A man and his son make an arduous journey across a desolate America inhabited by cannibals, in search of sanctuary further south. Drama based on Cormac McCarthy's novel, starring Viggo Mortensen. (2009)



Mercury Rising, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

**THURSDAY**  
**The Heart of Christmas, Channel 5, 11.30am**  
A successful businesswoman struggling to make time for her children is moved by the story of a boy who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Realising he may not live long enough to see another Christmas, his parents decided to celebrate the holiday in October. Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. (2011)

**FRIDAY**  
**Mercury Rising, ITV, 10.40pm**  
A top-secret government agency has developed a seemingly unbreakable code – only for an autistic boy to crack it in an instant. Assassins succeed in gunning down his parents, but a maverick FBI agent investigating their deaths finds the child hiding in a closet, and resolves to shield him from the hitmen on his trail. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis, Alec Baldwin and Miko Hughes. (1998)

Series continues to prove wild at heart

Over the past few years, Ben Fogle's New Lives in the Wild series has seen him meet people all over the world who have given up the rat race and started afresh in some of the remotest places on the planet.

However, his new series, which continues on Channel 5 tonight, looks at those a bit closer at home, who have looked to escape the daily grind in search of a happier, and often more self-sufficient, life elsewhere in the British Isles.

It's the same concept, but on a lower budget, if you will.

Of course, using sticks to live in a remote destination is familiar territory for Fogle, who first found fame in 2000 living on the remote Hebridean island of Taransay for BBC reality series, Castaway.

And in his heart of hearts the presenter still nurtures a dream of turning his back on his fame and fortune to live his own 'wilderness'.

He has even recently pinpointed an uninhabited Scandinavian island where he hopes to set up home.

"Island living is where I began on Taransay, and I have such fond memories of it," he explains.

"I'm only sorry that I don't think television is brave enough to make a series like that [Castaway] again – taking people out of their natural environment for a year.

"I think it's lost its innocence these days – none of us went there to become rich and famous, which seems to be a focus of so much reality TV nowadays. We simply wanted to establish a self-sufficient community."

Nevertheless, when you watch Fogle on TV and look at his prolific CV over the past few years, it appears unlikely that he could spend a year in any one place without getting itchy feet.

And the presenter is back on his travels once again for tonight's latest instalment of New Lives in the Wild UK.

Ben uses his considerable charm and empathy to bond with Simon and Debbie, a former estate agent and lawyer.

At the ages of 48 and 51 respectively the couple swapped city life for a hidden valley smouldering in the middle of Exmoor National Park.

But it's not been easy by any stretch of the imagination.

With more than 100 animals – some kept for companionship, others destined for the table – the couple's life on Exmoor is a constant battle and one they cannot always win, as Ben soon learns.

During his stay, the host discovers how to rear, kill and cook 'extreme free range' pigs, then tries his hand at foraging in steep woodland and attempts to clear an old orchard with a stubborn horse who suffers from hay fever.

As with all the people he has met during the series, Ben has admiration for what the couple are trying to do.

"Over the last few years, there's a fast-growing group of people looking to regress and turn back the clock," he says.

"It's not been easy for any of them and their bravery and resilience is inspiring."



Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild UK, Thursday, Channel 5, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Dino Autopsy: T-Rex, Channel 5, 9pm**  
In the past, palaeontologists relied on bones and fossils to build a picture of the Tyrannosaurus Rex. But now in this documentary, they get to take a step forward as cutting-edge special effects, created in collaboration with esteemed experts, are used to create an anatomically complete replica of the prehistoric predator, which scientists can touch, smell – and dissect. To give you a sense of scale, the T-Rex has teeth up to 30cm long, eyes the size of grapefruits and a heart that's 100 times bigger than a human's. However, it also has proportionally tiny arms, and here the experts try to solve the riddle of how the dinosaur managed to use them to feed. They'll also be asking how the creature procreated and whether it was warm or cold-blooded.

**TUESDAY**  
**Kirstie's Handmade Christmas, Channel 4, 8pm**  
It's now almost as traditional as egg nog and mince pies for Kirstie Allsopp to present a festive craft-making special. And here, as we enter December, is 2015's version – what's more, it will be shown over three nights, which means we can look forward to heaps of inspiration for our own festive

arrangements. The first edition sees Kirstie journey to Switzerland, a country that embraces Christmas and begins its celebrations in early December. She learns how to make a show-stopping garland, boozy fondue and personalised paper-cut pictures. Upcycling expert Jay Blades demonstrates how to turn a bookcase into a doll's house or castle, while makers and bakers try to impress with their trees, advent calendars and cakes.

**Capital BBC1, 9pm**  
If you can't get enough of the excellent Toby Jones and Rachael Stirling in Detectivists on BBC4, then this compelling drama should leave you more than satisfied. This week, as the 'We Want What You Have' campaign intensifies, the worried residents of Pepys Road demand greater action from the authorities. However, while DI Mill looks for a breakthrough, other forces continue to transform the fortunes of the road's inhabitants. Returning home after her break, Arabella is concerned to find that rather than getting the house in order, Roger has hired the alluring Matya to help with the kids.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**This is Tottenham BBC2, 9pm**  
In 2000, David Lammy became the MP for Tottenham, an area he knew well having grown up close to the Broadwater estate. He witnessed the riots there 30 years ago, and was aware of the problems in the area. During his time in office, other problems have hit Lammy's constituency, including the child abuse scandals of Baby P and Victoria Climbié, the shooting of Mark Duggan, and the 2011 riots. This documentary goes behind-the-scenes at Lammy's advice surgery, where around 6,000 local people call for help every year, offering an insight into the MP's work as he attempts to help a woman find her missing son and a young mother desperately attempting to get her child the life-saving operation he needs.



Kirstie's Handmade Christmas, Tuesday, Channel 4, 8pm

**THURSDAY**  
**The Secret Life of 6 Year Olds, Channel 4, 8pm**  
The documentary following three groups of youngsters moves on to the six-year-olds, who have the benefit of two years at school and are beginning to focus much more on their own identities. Kash and Elvin are keen to become group leader, but chaos ensues when the others cannot decide how to choose – by vote or by arm wrestle. Gentle Beatrice struggle to cope with defeat in a tug-of-war, asking her friends if they know the meaning of the word 'competitive', and there is romance in the playground as Elouisa declares her feelings for Kash.

**FRIDAY**  
**MOTD Live: FA Cup 2nd Round BBC2, 7.30pm**  
Salford City v Hartlepool United (Kick-off 7.55pm). Action from the game at Moor Lane. Northern Premier League side Salford – co-owned by five ex-Manchester United stars from the 'Class of '92' – will be looking to cause another upset, having already defeated Hartlepool's League Two rivals Notts County 2-0 in the first round. Striker Danny Webber scored the opening goal in that game, before a sublime strike from Richie Allen wrapped up a famous victory.

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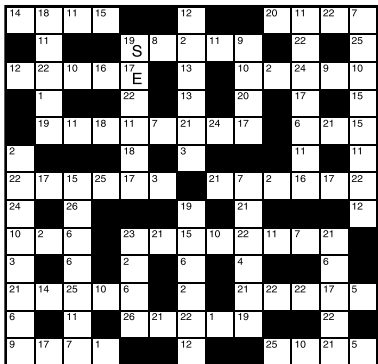
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BRAIN GYM No.353

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



|    |    |
|----|----|
| 1  | 14 |
| 2  | 15 |
| 3  | 16 |
| 4  | 17 |
| 5  | 18 |
| 6  | 19 |
| 7  | 20 |
| 8  | 21 |
| 9  | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L | F | G | W | Y | T | C | P | Z | E | K | U | M |
| O | I | B | D | R | S | X | Q | V | A | N | H | J |

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

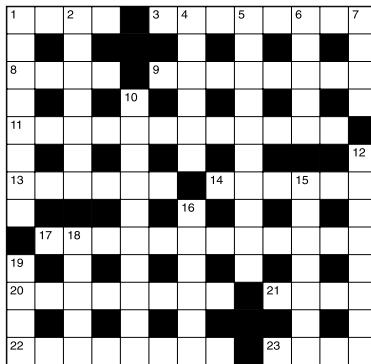
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Cut the end off a weed (4)
3. Don't forget about one in society (8)
8. Vegetable put on the fire, we hear (4)
- 9 & 19Dn. It gives one a chance to say one's piece (8,4)
11. Transport the nursemaid has for a small charge! (4-8)
13. Ronald disturbed by contemporary of De Quincey (6)
14. Make an effort to give instruction after the start of school (6)
17. Ask everybody to be quiet, as commercial travellers do! (4,3,5)
20. Idolatry destroyed in a skilful way (8)
21. Don't go on southern peak (4)
22. The rate fluctuates with certain valued possession (8)
23. Describing the desert in "The Sahara Ride" (4)

Down

1. Keep down, William, here's an aquatic burrower (8)
2. Tempestuous monster! (7)
4. Once a dock area from which to send out merchandise (6)
5. I came into a dreadful state of malnutrition (10)
6. Part of a tribe in Germany in existence (5)
7. Carnivals lead to scraps (4)
10. Academic bonds - old ones may have some snob value (6,4)
12. I printed version that's courageous (8)
15. Counter-checker (7)
16. Sporting woodsman (6)
18. Offer no opposition to some of the meagre emoluments (5)
19. See 9 Across



Quick Clues:

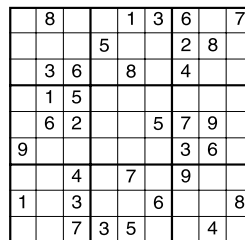
Across

1. Yield (4)
3. Valuable (8)
8. Headland (4)
9. Unmarried woman (8)
11. Vexation (12)
13. Extend (6)
14. Famish (6)
17. Undeniable (12)
20. United (8)
21. Inform (4)
22. Imperil (8)
23. Kind (4)

Down

1. Talk (8)
2. Hopelessness (7)
4. Account (6)
5. Establish (10)
6. Excel (5)
7. Certain (4)
10. Ghost (10)
12. Waking signal (8)
15. Plundering (7)
16. Orb (6)
18. Wanderer (5)
19. Highest degree (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shift worker; 9 Tonsure; 10 Great; 11 Third; 12 Tutored; 13 Occurs; 15 Taiwan; 18 Coracle; 20 Remus; 22 Place; 23 Chianti; 24 Beastliness. Down: 2 Hindi; 3 Founder; 4 Wreath; 5 Right; 5 Eyebrow; 7 Stethoscope; 8 Studentship; 14 Carnage; 16 Arraign; 17 Pencil; 18 Crews; 21 Minds. QUICK - Across: 1 Nondescript; 9 Elector; 10 Force; 11 Shell; 12 Overeat; 13 Recall; 15 Amount; 18 Meander; 20 Upset; 22 Noise; 23 Allegro; 24 Wealthiness. Down: 2 Obese; 3 Dullful; 4 Sorrow; 5 Rille; 6 Parvenu; 7 Measurement; 8 Destitution; 14 Chalice; 16 Maudlin; 17 Preach; 19 Dwell; 21 Signs.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What is finocchio?
2. What is the capital of Bermuda?
3. In financial terms, what do the initials IBRD stand for?
4. What did Elias Howe reputedly invent in 1844?
5. What is the German name for Gdansk?
6. From which language is the word coleslaw derived?
7. What is a fumarole?
8. Who founded the Bauhaus in Germany in 1919?
9. In which year did Chiang Kai-shek die?
10. In which North American city is Bay Street the financial centre?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Strand Magazine; 2 Mohne and Edersee; 3 Charles Wesley; 4 Hohenzollern; 5 Bronzehead; 6 Glasgow; 7 France; 8 1929; 9 Helios; 10 17th. Niner: ARGUMENTS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

4589 gives a fibre,  
128823 gives a cloth,  
76789 gives a stone.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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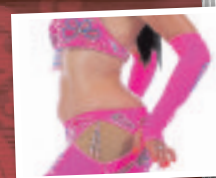
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Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 4th December 2015. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

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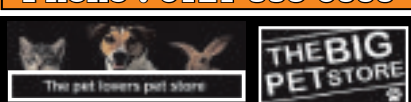
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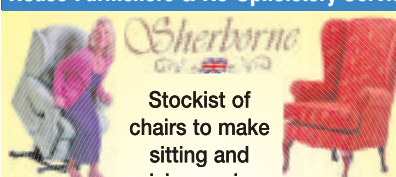
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**HALESOWEN, Lyde Green £675 pcm+Fees**  
Located in a popular residential area & a great location for access to Cradley Heath Train Station & Merry Hill is this semi detached home featuring a spacious lounge, dining room/study, kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, private rear gardens, driveway for 2 cars. Available Now! EPC: C



**NEW**  
**QUARRY BANK, Wychbury Road£650 pcm+Fees**  
This lovely semi detached house has been recently refurbished to a high standard & comprises of hall, extended lounge & kitchen, dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, tandem garage, front and rear gardens, central heating and double glazing. EPC: D



**BARTLEY GREEN, Ludford Road£650 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the Woodgate area. Ideally situated for Woodgate Primary School, this newly decorated 3 large bedroom terraced house features fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, separate w.c., rear garden with storage shed, available now. EPC: D



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Waugh Drive£650 pcm+Fees**  
A spacious and immaculate ground floor apartment situated in this convenient location close to Halesowen town centre, Client Hills and transport links. Comprising of private entrance, hallway, spacious living room, 2 good size bedrooms, fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances and bathroom. The property further benefits from having well kept communal grounds, garage and parking. Short term Let. EPC: C



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place£650 pcm+Fees**  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**LET**  
**HALESOWEN, Blackberry Lane£595 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely 2 bedroom end terrace in this very popular location close to Halesowen Town Centre and ideal for the number 9 bus into Stourbridge and Birmingham. Featuring a lounge, fitted dining kitchen with appliances, refitted bathroom and shower, central heating & double glazing, private rear garden, available now. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Barrs Road£595 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the well-liked area of Cradley Heath close to Haden Hill Park and ideally situated in the catchment area for Timberbee Primary School. Featuring 2 large double bedrooms and 1 single, large fitted kitchen, 2 generous reception rooms with elegant fireplaces, stylish bright bathroom with shower, downstairs vc, rear garden with lovely patio area, driveway parking for 1 car. EPC: D



**KIDDERMINSTER, Longfellow Green£575 pcm+Fees**  
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**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Cherry Street£575 pcm+Fees**  
A well presented modern build property within walking distance to the Town Centre. This unfurnished mid terrace house features: living room, dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing and rear parking. This property is ideally located for Newfield Park Primary, Halesowen College, Windsor and Earls High School. EPC: C



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Colley Lane £575 pcm+Fees**  
A superb location close to Merry Hill & Cradley Heath train station is this 2 bedroom semi-detached house comprising of Hallway, lounge, refitted breakfast/kitchen with oven/hob, upstairs bathroom with shower, 2 bedrooms & a further carpeted loft room, rear patio with astro turf & roller shutter door to parking area, gas central heating. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£525 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished semi detached house, close to local shops and transport links to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, double glazing, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Belgrave Road£525 pcm+Fees**  
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Situated in this convenient location close to local amenities and good transport links, this terraced property briefly comprises of: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and refitted bathroom. The property further benefits from having central heating, double glazing and pleasant rear garden. Available Now. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hammersley Close£500 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the very quiet cul-de-sac, close to local buses to Halesowen, Cradley Heath and Merry Hill, also close to Cradley Heath Train Station, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: gas central heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



**NEW**  
**CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close£500 pcm+Fees**  
Wonderfully presented and with its own balcony. A 1st floor modern apartment, ideally located for Old Hill train station and local shops. Featuring 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, modern kitchen with washer/dryer, lovely lounge with access to your own private balcony, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: B



**ROWLEY REGIS, Mildred Way£495 pcm+Fees**  
Beautifully presented and located in a quiet road, is this unfurnished open plan bungalow, briefly comprising of: 1 bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, fitted kitchen with washing machine and oven, part double glazed, conservatory, low maintenance rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: F



**NEW PRICE**  
**QUINTON, College Road £475 pcm+Fees**  
Large flat available above a shop close to direct bus links to Birmingham comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 large double bedrooms plus extra study/storage room, white bathroom with shower, electric heating. Available Now. EPC: G



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Stour Court £475 pcm+Fees**  
A great opportunity to rent this spacious and well proportioned ground floor apartment in a popular location. Large & airy living room, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, white bathroom suite with shower. Outside there is allocated parking and communal gardens. EPC: C



**NETHERTON, St Georges Road£425 pcm+Fees**  
Beautiful refurbishment in a quiet location. This 1st floor apartment has undergone a complete refurbishment. Features electric storage heating, living room, brand new kitchen, 1 very large double bedroom, brand new house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. Viewing recommended to appreciate this nicely proportioned flat. EPC: D



**OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£425 pcm+Fees**  
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear. Unfurnished. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Mount Street£395 pcm+Fees**  
Centrally located and within walking distance to Halesowen town centre is this spacious ground floor flat. Featuring 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. Unfurnished. EPC: TBC



**LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

## PROPERTY

# Spacious accommodation spread over three floors

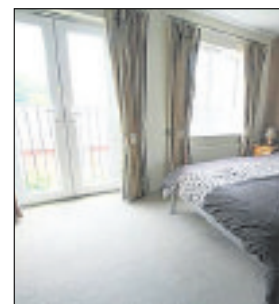


**HAVING a separate garage and parking, 144 Colley Lane, Halesowen, was originally a show home and has part of a NHBC warranty remaining.**

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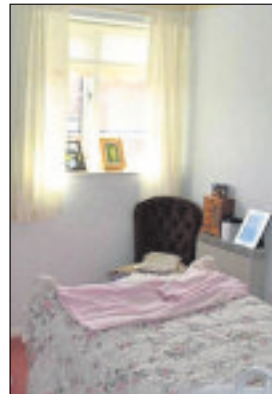


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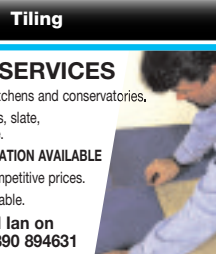
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80,000 miles, manual, 3dr, full MOT,

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54 plate, blue, MOT March 2016.

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**KIA Cerato 1.6, 06 plate, Mot Sept**

2016, 90,000 miles, fsh, VW, CD

player, AC, CL, alloy wheels, one

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**RENAULT MEGANE 1.4, V reg, 11**

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**RENAULT CLIO DCI 2005, 106,000**

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**RENAULT CLIO Dynamique, 2005,**

48k, 2 former keepers, 3 door, a/c,

remote CL, PAS, 12 months MOT,

£1,500 ono. 07823 132859.

**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6, 56 plate,**

5-dr, black, manual, 64,000 miles,

long MOT, EW, PAS, good

condition, £1,050. 07838 897643.

**ROVER 25 IMPRESSION 1.4, 53**

reg, MOT October 2016, alloys, CD,

electric sunroof, very nice condition,

£375. 07506 351866.

**TOYOTA AVENTIS 1.8, 2000 reg, 4**

months MOT, average mileage

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dition, £450. 01902 685549.

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**FEMALE**, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4294 Box 419673

**PROFESSIONAL** black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

**CATHY**, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, nights, romance and more. Pls call. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420075

**JANE**, young, 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any time, no time wasters ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4291 Box: 409715

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**MAUREEN**, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

**MAGGIE**, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTm kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040

**ATTRACTIVE** solvent business woman, 36yrs, seeks discreet gent 25+ for no strings discreet fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4693 Box 419701

**SARAH**, 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male who enjoys affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821

**LOUISE**, pretty hairdresser, works long hours, finds it hard to meet a boyfriend, 34yrs, own flat. Text only to Mailbox no: 4192572

**JENNI**, single mum seeks single dad, own home, can accommodate and loves spoiling her man. Text only to Mailbox no: 4115108

**FRANCES**, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003

**FEMALE**, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. Text only to Mailbox no: 5073511

**MARY**, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTm a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883

**LOU**, 45, lives in Shrewsbury, WLTm a lady between 42-49 with blue eyes, must be kind, caring and funny to mend my broken heart, someone who likes to curl up on the sofa for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419855

**FREYA** 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851

**LISA** 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839

**PAT** 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

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**LEE**, 50, seeking an Asian female for discreet fun and maybe more. Dudley area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419401

**45** year old male with varied interests WLTm female 35 to 55 for fun and friendship and hopefully more. Text only to Mailbox no: 421562

**COLIN** 48, kind loving, seeks large cuddly lady 45 to 60 for LTR, love, romance, also like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. Text only to Mailbox no: 490608

**TOM**, a young 59 active attractive male, 5ft8, slimish & fit with decent looks & friendly nature, many interests, looking for lady similar age. Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340

**GENTLEMAN**, 57, slightly mad but not bad, who will make you ever so glad that you answered his ad! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419307

**GENT** 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973

**GENUINE** caring male, seeks similar female for friendship or possibly more. Aged between 25-39. Text only to Mailbox no: 4916049

**ANDY** 53, widower, honest, genuine, caring, happy tactile, hoping to find love again with a decent loving lady. Kidderminster. Text only to Mailbox no: 4911450

**TACTILE**, romantic guy, height 5ft6in, loves good food and drinking in or out, dancing, music, conversation and cuddles. Please for love. Text only to Mailbox No: 4893329

**TALL** attractive professional male, 50, GSOH, looking for some fun, adventure and sparkle. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418951

**MALE** seeks affectionate, tactile, no drama, down to earth woman for nights in/out and loads of cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418695

**COLIN**, 48, seeks large cuddly lady between 45-55 for LTR, must like hugs, kisses, cuddles and holding hands. Text only to Mailbox no: 4906086

### Men seeking men

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**BI** male would like to meet same. 60 to 80 yrs. Must be able to accommodate. Coventry or Birmingham. Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168

**TALL** male, 57, seeks older lady 60 to 80 for adult fun. Text only to Mailbox no: 4347071

**TOM** young 59 attractive male, decent looking, fit, slimish, good company & fun loving with many interests, seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 4926340

**BI** male would like to meet same, 60 to 80 years. Must be able to accommodate for fun weekends. Text only to Mailbox no: 4931168

**BI** curious guy 36, looking for gay or bi male age 58 - 80 for adult fun. Text only to Mailbox no: 4830039

### Women seeking Women

**BI** male WLTm same for weekend fun, 60 to 70 years old. Must be able to accommodate. Birmingham. Text only to Mailbox no: 4911168

**CROSSDRESSER**, 50, seeking crossdresser of similar age or older for discreet adult fun in south glos area. Text only to Mailbox no: 4878545

**LONELY** mother seeks female friends for enlightening/enlightening coffee chats, likes countryside animals etc. Text only to Mailbox No: 4860241

## Friends

**MODERN** young at heart lovely lady, 70's, likes trips out, holidays, seeking similar lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410215

**CALL CHARGES:** DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 0844 calls cost 7 pence per min, 0900 calls cost £1.55 per min, plus your phone company's access charge. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT\*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free mail alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to [www.localdates-term.co.uk/](http://www.localdates-term.co.uk/). REPLY BY TEXT\*: 80098/8990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed up to 4 messages for each message you send. Service only available where phone icon shown. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to choose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. To STOP text stop to 80098/8990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES\*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. To opt out of receiving these send NO INFO to 80098. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. Advertisers may come from our national database and from our pdc app. Wc 23/11/15



# Marque focused on G57

By Sharon Walters

**Ginetta has proven itself as the manufacturer of the fastest LMP3 car in the world. Now the Yorkshire marque turns its attentions to a new-for-2016 car; the Ginetta G57.**

With a class first and second in the inaugural European Le Mans Series driver and teams championship, Ginetta has been the dominant force throughout the inaugural LMP3 season, taking a clean sweep of class victories.

A fantastic partnership between Ginetta, the ACO and ELMS throughout the development and delivery of the LMP3 class allowed all parties to make a success of the inaugural season, one which will undoubtedly continue into 2016. With its position as a rising star in sports prototypes cemented, the Yorkshire manufacturer now switches its

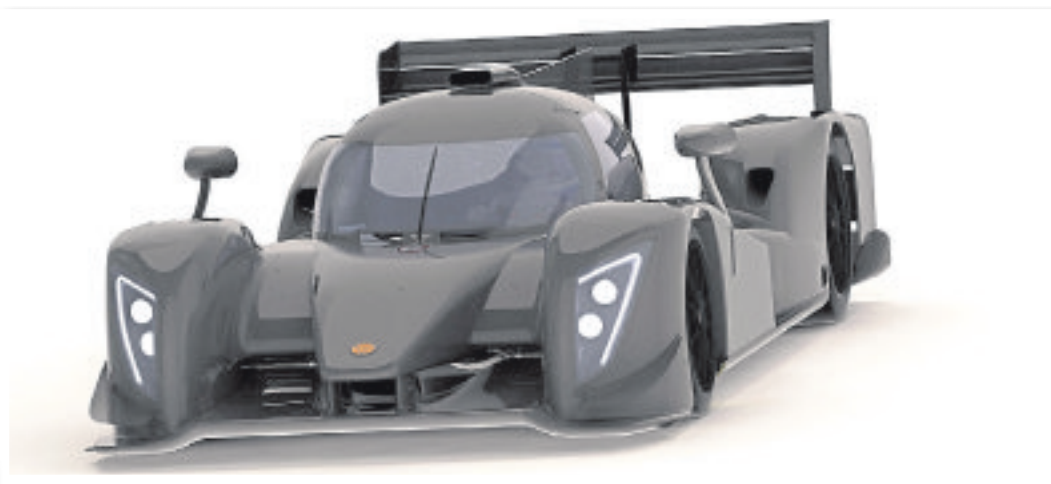
attention to the ongoing development of the new Ginetta G57.

Designed to increase export of the British brand, which already stands at circa 50 per cent of all sales, the Ginetta G57 represents a cost-effective prototype, eligible for sports car competition across the globe.

## Suited

With a view to complement the already established Ginetta formulae, which includes four single-make championships, a number of franchised European series in Italy and Sweden, plus a large presence in the USA with the Ginetta G55, the Ginetta Prototype will be suited to all levels of driver grade, experience and ambition.

Comprising a Chevrolet LS3 engine with 580bhp, the Ginetta G57 will offer a robust drivetrain, providing unrivalled performance with additional power and heightened value for money. In addition, the car will feature an unrestricted aerodynamic package, delivering some of the quickest lap times for cars of this genre.



**‘Ginetta G57 represents a cost-effective prototype, eligible for sports car competition across the globe’**

Lawrence Tomlinson, chairman of Ginetta explained; "European Le Mans Series provided the perfect platform to further introduce the Ginetta brand to the European marketplace, and we worked closely with the ACO to ensure both the car and the series were a success.

"As a business, we must now continue towards our goal of increasing export, which inevitably means creating a new, and significantly faster, car which is eligible for competition on a number of different global platforms."

Ewan Baldry, Ginetta technical director added; "We've had a great season with ELMS, but Team LNT had only ever planned to contest one full season. For 2016, we will continue to support our customers who remain within the series, but as a manufacturer, our attentions now turn to the Ginetta G57."

The Ginetta Prototype has already been accepted for competition in VdeV and various open sports car championships. Team LNT also claimed a win and a second place in the previous two VdeV events.



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**Dudley Motor Company**

Trindle Rd, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY  
**01384 454100** [www.dudleymotorco.co.uk](http://www.dudleymotorco.co.uk)



Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). VAUXHALL Antara 5 Door SUV 2.2 CDTi 163PS Diamond FWD Stop/Start with 16", 17", 18" and 19" wheels, M6: Urban: 37.2 (7.6), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.1 (6.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 167g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.



# Great black Friday deals

## Commercial feature

**Thinking about replacing your current car? Well, you're in luck because when it comes to buying a new or used car you'll find it very difficult indeed to beat the impressive deals offered by Dudley Motor Company, T. Wall Vauxhall, Halesowen Motor House and Stourbridge Motor House. No, it's true – offers on cars don't come better than this.**

Due to the huge success of their BIG event recently, these five dealerships have combined forces to offer you incredible savings on a vast range of new and used cars during 'Black Friday Weekend.'

There's 0% interest-free\* finance along with generous finance deposits on selected new cars. And if you're thinking of travelling along with used car route, all four dealerships have plenty of models to choose from and all used vehicles will be reduced in price from this Black Friday, November 27 and over the following weekend up until close of business on the Sunday. With fantastic low-rate HP and PCP

(Personal Contract Purchase) plans available there will never been a better time to buy a new or used car.

And there's more good news for new car buyers too, as there will also be big surprise offers on the part of Vauxhall not known by the sales team at the moment.

### Vauxhall Black Country Group

Dudley Motor Company Vauxhall, Trindle Road, Dudley; T. Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford; Halesowen Motor House Vauxhall, Dudley Road, Halesowen; Stourbridge Motor House (Vauxhall), 47 High St, Stourbridge.

Long established as one of the UK's market-leading motor manufacturers, Vauxhall offers a superb range of models straddling all areas of the market, from the ADAM and new Viva city cars and ever popular Corsa, to the sleek new Astra, newly-revised Insignia, the big-selling MOKKA crossover and two leading MPVs, the 5-seat Meriva and 7-seat Zafira Tourer. All models are amongst the best sellers in their respective market sectors.

### Ford

T. Wall Ford, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford.  
Ford is the UK market leader in terms of sales, its range featuring top-selling favourites such as the KA, Fiesta, Focus, Mondeo and five spacious MPVs, namely the five-seat B-MAX, five-seat C-MAX and 7-seat Grand C-MAX, the sleek new 7-seat S-MAX and Galaxy people carrier. Then there's excellent Kuga crossover and impressive new EcoSport compact crossover to consider.

### Suzuki

Halesowen Motor House Suzuki, Dudley Road, Halesowen.

Over at Halesowen Motor House on Dudley Road, they represent Vauxhall and Suzuki. Suzuki is one of the fastest-growing car brands in the UK and sales continue to rise. That can hardly be seen as surprising as Suzuki's cars are exactly right for today's motoring conditions. They're very economical, clean when it comes to CO2 emissions, inexpensive to own and very affordable to purchase. What's more, Suzuki's cars are stylish, practical and great to drive, too. Little wonder that there is so much demand for its vehicles.



Why not check out the outstanding new and used car range at these five family-owned dealerships this Black Friday Weekend, particularly as you'll find plenty of exceptional deals from Friday, November 27 up until Sunday close of business at 4.30pm.

Dudley Motor Company, T. Wall Vauxhall, Halesowen Motor Company and Stourbridge Motor Company are strategically placed to cover the whole of the Black Country.

The friendly sales teams understand that buying a car has to be a considered decision. So they're offering you an opportunity to take your time over this forthcoming weekend so that you are able to make an informed decision, take a test drive and discuss your requirements within a relaxed and pleasant, non-pressurised environment. That way, you'll gain a car that's exactly right for you taking into

account your preferred model, specification, car tax and insurance details and lifestyle requirements.

The 'Black Friday Weekend' starts this Friday at the following locations across the Black Country:

Dudley Motor Company (Vauxhall), Trindle Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY. Tel: 01384 454100

T. Wall Vauxhall, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XB. Tel: 01384 288333

T. Wall Ford, High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8XB. Tel: 01384 282 900

Halesowen Motor House, Vauxhall and Suzuki, Dudley Road, Halesowen B63 3NH. Tel: 0121 503 0001

Stourbridge Motor House (Vauxhall), 47 High St, Stourbridge DY8 4DG Tel: 01384 447970

\*Terms and conditions apply.



## BLACK FRIDAY WEEKEND 27-30 NOVEMBER

### BLACK FRIDAY'S THE BIGGEST SHOPPING DAY OF THE YEAR AND WE'RE PLANNING PLENTY OF SURPRISES.

In fact, from Friday 27 November, we're declaring it Black Friday Weekend.

**We're offering £5,705\* off an Antara Diamond that weekend. Get down to Dudley Motor Company, Halesowen Motor House, Stourbridge Motor House and T Wall Garages today to see our range of other great offers.**



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**Stourbridge Motor House**

Stourbridge  
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**Halesowen Motor House**

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**T Wall Garages**

Kingswinford  
01384 288 333



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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 85g/km.\*

\*£5,705 discount available on vehicles ordered between 27th and 30th November 2015, which are subsequently registered by 31st December 2015. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.





# Toyota's RAV4 now available in hybrid

By James Parker

**Toyota is introducing hybrid power to the RAV4 in one of the most significant changes to the model since it created the European compact recreational SUV market in 1994.**

The new model range is now available to order in the UK, with a choice of powertrains which includes the 2.5-litre full hybrid, a new 2.0-litre D-4D diesel and a revised 2.0-litre Valvematic petrol with improved fuel economy and CO2 emissions. Both front-wheel and all-wheel drive versions are offered. Active 2.0 D-4D front-wheel drive. On-the-road prices from £23,695.

At the same time Toyota is upgrading equipment specifications across the board and introducing Toyota Safety Sense – a package of integrated active safety and driver assistance features – as an option on all versions of RAV4 beyond the entry-point model.

Toyota is offering customers more choice and improved equipment specifications with a new five-grade line-up that introduces Business Edition Plus trim and changes the flagship designation from Invincible to Excel.

The entry level Active grade features the new 2.0 D-4D diesel engine and comes equipped as standard with a wealth of extra equipment features. These include the Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system with touchscreen, six-speaker audio system with DAB radio, cruise control, sunglasses holder, shark fin antenna and leather steering wheel cover. This is an addition to current items including 17in alloys, LED daytime running lights, air conditioning, rear privacy glass and electric door mirrors.

The RAV4 Business Edition – also powered by the 2.0-litre diesel engine – gains front and rear underruns. Elsewhere it retains its high-value specification, with highlights including Toyota Touch 2 with Go navigation and on-board connectivity system, dual-zone automatic air conditioning, front fog lamps, retractable door mirrors, automatic headlights and wipers, rear-view camera and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror.

The new Business Edition Plus is launched as a hybrid/ front-wheel drive-only grade and comes with LED front and rear lights, a power tailgate, keyless entry and push-button start.

## Alloy

All three powertrains and front and all-wheel drive options are offered in Icon trim. Key additional features include 18in machined-finish alloy wheels, LED headlamps, combination leather and Alcantara upholstery, electrically-adjustable driver's seat (with power-adjustable lumbar support), heated front seats and an Alcantara dashboard finish. On these models the Toyota Touch 2 system is provided with an optional upgrade to Go status with satellite navigation and connectivity functions.

The Excel models adopt the full Toyota Touch 2 with Go package, plus leather upholstery, roof rails and front and rear parking sensors.

Toyota Safety Sense is available as an option (£695) on all versions of the new RAV4, apart from Active grade. The package of integrated active safety and driver assistance includes a radar-controlled Pre-Collision System that can detect both vehicles and pedestrians on the road ahead. This works in conjunction with a pre-collision brake and brake assist to alert the driver to the imminent risk of a collision, prepare the brakes to deliver extra stopping power and, if the driver fails to react, to initiate braking autonomously.

The same radar unit also equips RAV4 with adaptive cruise control, which helps the driver maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front. Other features include road sign assist, which recognises principal motorway and major route signs and repeats on the TFT screen in the driver's instrument binnacle.

Camera sensors monitor the white lines of motorways and major dual carriageways to provide a lane departure alert, warning the driver if the vehicle strays out of its lane without the turn indicators being used. The same system also provides a new sway warning, detecting from irregular vehicle movements that the driver may be becoming drowsy. If it believes the driver's attention is becoming potentially unsafe, it will flash up a sway warning alert on the TFT screen with a coffee cup image, recommending the driver takes a break from the wheel.

Toyota Safety Sense is completed by automatic high beam, which maximises full-beam headlight operation. The system detects oncoming traffic and vehicles ahead and automatically dips the lights, returning them to full beam as soon as the road ahead is clear. This function can be switched off if the driver prefers to operate the lights manually at any time.

Two new exterior colours are available for RAV4: Blue Crush and Barcelona Red. Cabin trims are unchanged.

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| 12 | Ka 1.2 Edge Red                   | Only 7000 Miles  | £5,495  |
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| 12 | 308 1.6 Access Auto Blue          | Only 10000 Miles | £6,495  |
| 62 | Meriva 1.4 SE Grey                | Only 12000 Miles | £7,995  |
| 14 | VW Golf 2.0 TSI R DSG Blue        | Only 12000 Miles | £27,995 |
| 62 | Juke 1.6 Tekna Auto Black         | Only 12000 Miles | £11,995 |
| 62 | C4 1.6 HDI VTR+ Red               | Only 12000 Miles | £7,995  |
| 62 | Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Blue            | Only 13000 Miles | £7,995  |
| 12 | Kia Venga 1.6 2 Auto Silver       | Only 14000 Miles | £7,795  |
| 62 | Chevrolet Orlando 1.8 LT Aut Grey | Only 17000 Miles | £8,495  |
| 62 | Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Caffè Latte  | Only 17000 Miles | £7,495  |
| 62 | 3008 1.6 HDI Active 2 Black       | Only 17000 Miles | £9,295  |
| 12 | Berlingo 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS6 Grey   | Only 17000 Miles | £7,995  |
| 60 | Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Silver        | Only 17000 Miles | £6,495  |
| 62 | Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Blue         | Only 17000 Miles | £7,495  |

## Other

|    |   |     |         |
|----|---|-----|---------|
| 59 | Ford Fusion 1.4 Style + Silver            | 43k | £4,295  |
| 63 | Ford C-Max 1.6 TDCI Titanium X Black      | 26k | £12,995 |
| 62 | Ford Focus 1.6 TDCI Titanium Black        | 29k | £9,995  |
| 12 | Honda Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Red             | 20k | £7,995  |
| 59 | Perodua MYVI 1.3 SXI 5dr Silver           | 26k | £2,995  |
| 62 | Peugeot 3008 1.6 HDI Active II Shark Grey | 44k | £8,795  |
| 12 | Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Tomtom 3dr Silver    | 32k | £5,295  |
| 07 | Renault Scenic 1.6 Dynamique Gold         | 37k | £2,995  |
| 60 | Renault Scenic 1.5 DCI Priv TomTom Beige  | 23k | £7,495  |
| 09 | VW EOS 1.4 TSI Convertible Silver         | 58k | £6,295  |
| 62 | VW Polo 1.2 TDI Match Grey                |     | £6,995  |

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# Remarkable supermini

By John Griffiths

**There's a new supermini on Britain's roads but you won't have much difficulty in spotting its origins.**

But make no mistake: SEAT's new Ibiza may not look too much different on the outside, but underneath it's a very different story.

After all, the sporty shape was originally conceived by a former chief designer for Lamborghini and its sculpted lines remain modern and distinctive. There's an old saying 'if it ain't broke ...' Instead the company listened to customers and blew its budget for this latest makeover on new, upgraded interiors, a great deal of new technology and the introduction of considerably more efficient engine options, bringing fuel and tax savings for owners.

There's also a new speed sensitive power steering system and much-revised suspension, damper and anti-roll bar settings which have significantly sharpened up handling while also resulting in a smoother, quieter ride. There's a range of customisation options for those who want their car to stand out visually.

Prices start at £10,000, rising to £18,035 which, like for like, still manages to undercut big name rivals which don't have the advantage of offering three body styles - three door couple, five door or sports tourer (estate). There are seven trim levels and ten engine options - seven petrol and three diesel - six of which are completely new.

So with all that variety, and a new sporting flagship version, the Cupra, coming in a couple of months, the Ibiza has this highly competitive section of the market pretty well covered.

The entry level engine in the cheapest version produces 75ps and 95Nm of torque,

drives smoothly and feels a little more peppy on the road than its 14.3 second 0 to 62mph time suggests. Official average fuel consumption at 54.4mpg wouldn't be out of place with many a smaller, lighter city car.

But the same engine in the turbocharged Ecomotive version is rated at 95ps, with 160Nm of torque which cuts nearly four seconds off the 0 to 62mph sprint time and yet its official fuel average is a diesel-like 68.9mpg and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 94g/km.

The top specification FR version gets even more power, 110ps and a hefty 200Nm of torque, but still with an official fuel average of more than 64mpg and a low 102g/km.

## Quicker

The FR, which costs from £15,690 in the three-door model, is also unusual for a 1.0 litre car in that it is available with the proven DSG dual clutch automatic transmission. Quicker and smoother than even a manual gearbox, it also has the option of manual control of the six ratios via paddles behind the steering wheel.

With a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 9.3 seconds, it is remarkably quick for a 1.0 litre car and particularly smooth, thanks to its combination of torque and the DSG transmission.

It also gives the car a relaxed, 'grown up' feel, which is a characteristic of the new Ibiza across the board. It isn't only the engine, as the complete retuning of the suspension and damping means a more compliant and quieter ride with less jarring over bumpy B-roads.

That's an impression reinforced by the new cabin with new soft touch materials and a multi-function colour touchscreen in the centre of the dash. In fact, there's even a new 'Connect' trim level, which comes with a larger, 6.5 inch screen for controlling audio, communications and satnav, while having full inter-connectivity with a smartphone's functions.



Other petrol engine options include 1.2 litre units with 90 and 110Ps, a 1.4TSI with 150Ps of power and 250Nm of torque.

All three diesel engines are 1.4 litres, with outputs of 75, 90 (available with the DSG transmission) and 110PS. The 75Ps version is fitted to the Ecomotive version, with official average fuel consumption of more than 83mpg and a CO<sub>2</sub> rating now down to 88g/km: well below the current 100g/km free VED benchmark. The Ecomotive has a very respectable 210Nm of torque, making it very driveable with plenty of pulling power at low revs. It is also significantly quieter than the engine it replaces.

The entry-level E model comes with a centre touch screen media system, four airbags, hill hold control, a tyre monitoring system, stability

control and emergency brake assist, a folding rear bench seat, electric front windows. Next up the S A/C adds air conditioning along with electric adjustable and heated door mirrors, an upgraded audio and hands-free phone system, a split/fold rear seat and remote audio and phone controls on the steering wheel.

Further up the range, you add features such as alloy wheels, a larger touch screen with an improved range of functions, LED running lights, front fog lights with cornering function, cruise control, parking sensors, satnav, and a driver tiredness warning. The FR is the top specification model, with a sporty trim.

The new Ibiza has to hold its own in a crowded and competitive area of the market, but SEAT has hit the ground running with a wide

range of engine, body styles its competitive pricing and relatively low running costs add to the appeal. All the new engines meet the latest EU6 emissions standards (with low CO<sub>2</sub> ratings of between 88 and 120g/km) and insurance ratings range from 8E to 18E (out of 50).

And while its looks may not have changed much (colour pack options excluded) SEAT has added a raft of new technology and a more grown-up feel to the car, with significant improvements in refinement.

For many of us price is the deciding factor. But given a choice the FR, with one-litre turbo engine, DSG transmission and a combination of 64mpg and sub 10 seconds sprint time is a pretty remarkable machine even in the world of superminis.

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| <br>11/60 Mercedes C-Class C180 CGI Blue Efficiency Sport<br>4dr Tip-Automatic, 53k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, CD, Climate, E/Windows<br><b>£12495 / £57 Per Week</b>        | <br>09/09 Citroen Berlingo Multispace XTR 1.6 HDI Diesel<br>61k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£5695 / £27 Per Week</b>  |
| <br>06/56 Jaguar XJ Sovereign 2.7TDV Diesel Automatic<br>60k, Silver, Alloys, Premium Cream Leather, Sat-Nav, Top Spec - Every Extra<br><b>£9995 / £51 Per Week</b>              | <br>11/60 Vauxhall Meriva Exclusive 1.4 Turbo<br>39k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player, E/Windows<br><b>£5495 / £26 Per Week</b>                                      |
| <br>06/06 Mercedes CLS CLS320 CDI<br>Diesel 4dr Tip Automatic, 75k, Silver, Black Leather, Alloys, Sat-Nav, Climate Control<br><b>£9495 / £49 Per Week</b>                       | <br>12/62 Citroen C3 Picasso VTR Plus 1.6 HDI Diesel<br>"ONLY £30 ROAD TAX" 112k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£4995 / £24 Per Week</b>                    |
| <br>07/07 Honda CR-V 2.2 i-CTDi Diesel ES<br>5dr 4dr, 64k, Beige, Alloys, Climate Control, CD Player<br><b>£7795 / £39 Per Week</b>  | <br>05/55 Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Club Diesel [120]<br>5dr 7 Seater, 50k miles, White, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player<br><b>£4495 / £23 Per Week</b>                       |
| <br>09/09 Vauxhall insignia 2.0 Elite Turbo Estate<br>Automatic 56k, Sage Metallic, Alloys, Cream Leather, Climate Control, E/Windows<br><b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>             | <br>07/57 Vauxhall Corsa 1.6T 16V SRI<br>3dr, 68k, Red, Alloys, Two Tone Red and Black Interior, Air Con, CD Player<br><b>£4295 / £21 Per Week</b>                      |
| <br>07/57 Jaguar S-Type 2.7D V6 Diesel SE<br>4dr, Auto, 79k, Grey, Alloys, Savannah Leather, Heated Seats, Sat-Nav, Climate, CD Player, E/Windows<br><b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b> | <br>2004/54 Toyota Rav 4 2.0 XT4<br>5dr, "ONE OWNER plus supply dealer", 55k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, FSH<br><b>£3995 / £19 Per Week</b> |
| <br>08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel<br>4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows<br><b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>                             | <br>2005/05 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 DCi 136 SVE Diesel<br>5dr, 125k, Silver, Alloys, Black Leather, Sat-Nav, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, FSH<br><b>£3495 / £17 Per Week</b>      |
| <br>07/07 Volvo V50 2.5 SE Lux D5 Estate Automatic<br>67k, Blue Metallic, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Climate Control, E/Windows<br><b>£6495 / £34 Per Week</b>                    | <br>10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 Plus<br>43k, Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, "Only £30 Road Tax"<br><b>£3495 / £17 Per Week</b>   |
| <br>09/09 Ford Fiesta 1.25 Zetec<br>3dr, ONLY 26k MILES, Red Metallic, Alloys, Air Con, CD, Heated 1st screen<br><b>£6295 / £33 Per Week</b>                                     | <br>2002/02 Smart City-Cabriolet Passion Softtouch<br>2dr Automatic, 44k, Colourwash Yellow, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD<br><b>£2195 / £25 Per Week</b>           |

Finance example: 10/10 Chevrolet Spark 1.0 plus, Cash Price £3495, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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## DRIVETIME



## Free car insurance offered

Vauxhall retailer, Stourbridge Motor House, is helping motorists enjoy the thrill of owning a new car with a special insurance deal available on selected vehicles.

Young drivers (18 to 20 years) can take advantage of £99 first year insurance, provided by ingenie, on the new Corsa Limited Edition when an ingenie black box is fitted. On the same model, those aged 21 and over can get free insurance, through Vauxhall Insurance\*.

"The Corsa is one of our most-loved cars, especially among young drivers so we're really pleased to be helping young and mature drivers alike with this insurance offer, and getting even more motorists in Stourbridge on the

road," said Michael Casey, general manager at Stourbridge Motor House.

As well as this great offer, Vauxhall is running a Scrappage Allowance scheme when customers trade in their old motor. This means a 21-year-old customer could benefit from the £2,000 allowance, which would result in a £1,190 finance deposit contribution and payment of just £193 per month over 36 months for a Corsa three-door 1.2-litre Limited Edition, which includes one year's free insurance and one year's free OnStar featuring emergency response notification, stolen vehicle recovery technology and 4G Wi-Fi\*\*.

Vauxhall's Scrappage Allowance scheme helps customers take advantage of a £2,000 (including VAT) scrappage trade-in against most new

passenger cars in its range. To qualify for the scheme, customers must have owned their trade-in vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. There is no upper age limit for cars and any manufacturer's vehicle will be accepted.

To find out more about this offer or any other information about Stourbridge Motor House, visit the retailer at High Street, Amblecote, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4DG. Alternatively, call 01384 447970 or go online to [www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk)

\*Terms and conditions apply visit: <http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/insurance>

\*\*On selected models only. OnStar is a comprehensive package, which includes a high-speed 4G Wi-Fi mobile network and stolen vehicle recovery technology.

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| 09 59                        | CORSA DESIGN 1.4 AUTO 5DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 21,000 MILES         | £6,250  | £5,995  | £255  |
| 13 62                        | CORSA Sri 1.4 3DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 22,000 MILES               | £7,295  | £6,695  | £600  |
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| 14 14                        | CORSA SE 1.4 5DR ASTE ID GREY 14,700 MILES                    | £8,495  | £7,995  | £500  |
| 14 14                        | CORSA SE 1.4 5DR SILVER LAKE 15,300 MILES                     | £8,495  | £7,995  | £500  |
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| 14 14                        | ASTRA GTC 1.4T 140ps 3DR BLACK SAPPHIRE 22,000 MILES          | £11,995 | £11,495 | £500  |
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| 14 63                      | ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.8 5DR POWER RED 11,900 MILES                          | £9,695  | £8,995  | £700  |
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| 13 63                      | MOKKA SE 1.4T AUTO 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 19,000 MILES                       | £13,995 | £13,495 | £500  |
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| 14 64                      | MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTi SOVEREIGN SILVER 5,800 MILES SAT NAV             | £15,195 | £14,495 | £700  |
| 14 64                      | MOKKA SE 1.4T 5DR SNOWFLAKE WHITE 9,900 MILES                           | £15,695 | £14,995 | £700  |
| 15 15                      | MOKKA TECHLINE 1.4T AUTO 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 2,950 MILES SAT NAV          | £17,995 | £17,495 | £500  |
| 15 15                      | MOKKA SE 1.4T AUTO 5DR VELVET RED 1,750 MILES                           | £17,995 | £17,495 | £500  |
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| 11 11                      | INSIGNIA Sri 2.0CDTi VX-LINE NAV BLACK SAPPHIRE 30,000 MILES            | £10,495 | £9,995  | £500  |
| 12 62                      | INSIGNIA ELITE 2.0CDTi NAV AUTO 5DR FLIP CHIP SILVER 38,800 MILES       | £11,495 | £10,895 | £600  |
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| 15 64                      | INSIGNIA Sri NAV 2.0CDTi 140ps ECO OLYMPIC WHITE 12,100 MILES           | £15,995 | £14,995 | £1000 |
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| 12 62                      | PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 1.2 3DR SILVER 23,000 MILES                          | £6,450  | £5,995  | £455  |
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| 15 64                      | RENAULT CAPTUR 1.5DCi DYNAMIQUE MEDIA NAV BLUE/WHITE ROOF 10,900 MILES  | £12,750 | £12,295 | £455  |

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# Lexus is a smooth operator

By Sharon Walters

**There is no question that rock 'n' roll is great music, but the term means something much less fun when used to describe the quality of ride you get from your car. Lexus has designed and equipped its new RX to put an end to rocking and rolling, whether you are travelling on the highway, or driving on rougher off-road surfaces.**

The new luxury SUV's active suspension performance moves to a higher level, securing a smoother and more stable ride and a more rewarding driving experience. The system design has been updated and customers can specify an Adaptive Variable Suspension system for sportier performance. Ride and handling have also been

improved thanks to the engineering of a significantly more rigid vehicle body.

The new RX features an updated version of the suspension system used in the current model: MacPherson struts at the front and a rear trailing arm and double-wishbone set-up, with components fine-tuned for extra stability when cornering and improved handling overall. Changes include a larger front anti-roll bar, which gives both a crisper turning response and better ride quality.

## Adjusts

Sportier performance can be gained from Lexus's Adaptive Variable Suspension (AVS), a standard feature of the F Sport and Premier grade models. This automatically adjusts the damping force delivered by the shock absorbers at each wheel in response to the quality of the road surface and the driver's inputs.

For example, on rough roads, the system switches to a more compliant setting to maintain comfort. When driving through



**'Panel joints have been made stronger using high-tech body adhesives and laser screw welding'**

a bend, the damping force is firmer, to reduce body roll and give the RX more performance-focused, flatter cornering.

As well as advanced suspension tuning and technology, the new RX reaps the benefits of having a more rigid body – a fundamental quality that has a positive impact on its handling, comfort and cabin quietness, as well as providing more robust crash protection.

Lexus has achieved this with innovative techniques, including a new ring-frame construction method to create stronger

sections around the front and rear doors. Panel joints have been made stronger using high-tech body adhesives and laser screw welding, and high-tensile-strength steel has been used at strategic points throughout, including the A and B-pillars and underbody crossmembers. Extra spot welds around the rear of the body also contribute to the car's strength and handling stability.

The new RX is available to order now, with first deliveries to UK customers from January.

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## Wellington boot Town into touch with three

**Wellington Am 3 Tipton 1**  
TIPTON Town remain in the West Midlands Premier basement after visitors Wellington Amateurs added to their woes with a 3-1 win.

Languihing only one place from the bottom of the table, and currently winless at home, Tipton showed few signs of that situation improving.

Of great concern, particularly to Manager, Paul Totney, was the sheer inability of the Black Country club to mount any telling threat upon their visitors in such a vital fixture and, with virtually half the season's games behind them, a tally of just 4 points simply tells it's own story. In the 18th minute slipshod defending by Tipton allowed Gavin Davies to open the visitors' account when scrambling the ball home for an untidy goal.

Tipton suddenly came to life on 24 minutes, two fine efforts from Matt Weyman and Marvin Whitter ricocheting to safety before Jon Crawford was then superbly tackled in the act of shooting.

Wellington weathered the short period of home pressure, and on 38 minutes a sweeping move involving Sam Groucher and Tom Bradley set up Ben Parker to make it 2-0 to the Shropshire outfit.

Right on half-time a good counter-attack by Tipton gave them hope when, in a packed goal-mouth, Ravi Sangha reacted first to halve the deficit.

Tipton wastefully spurned a fine opportunity to level the scores.

The visitors killed off the match when Davies scored his second.

## TD is beaten soundly by a high five

**Coventry 5 Team Dudley 0**  
TEAM Dudley ended up soundly beaten in their first game for nearly a month.

But the students stuck to their task against a higher-ranked team in the Birmingham FA Saturday Vase.

Coventry took the lead after 18 minutes when a penalty was awarded for a foul by Kaighlem Duncan and Jack Dobson sent Liam Jones the wrong way and opened the scoring.

It was the first of three goals in a six-minute spell that took the match away from Team Dudley and two further goals in the second half sealed the Midland League Division One side's passage to the next round.

TD's Myles Nettleford was denied a late consolation goal.

# Old Hales keep up head of steam

**Hampton in Arden 3 OHHC 4**

OLD Halesonians 1st XI continued their fantastic start to their Warwick Printing Midlands One campaign with a 4-3 victory away at Hampton-In-Arden.

Hales struggled to gain dominance as they wasted several good opportunities.

Hampton were nearly gifted an undeserved goal, when a stray pass from Ben Hughes across the back line went straight to a forward, but keeper Steve Charlton was quick to smother the shot.

In the closing stages of the half, Hales finally got their break through when Cole Hickman found himself one-on-one and calmly tucked it past the keeper. Half-time saw player-coach Mark Curzon and man-

ager Dave Butler call for more composure from the side, and Hales duly responded with a wonderful flowing move early in the second half to double their lead.

Smart passing found Graham Knight in the D, and his cut back found Josh Randhawa who dived in to slide home the ball.

This appeared to wake up the hosts, and they found themselves level with two quick short corner goals.

In previous seasons this may have seen Hales fall away, but they showed their resilience and quality to go straight back up the other end and retake the lead. Quick movement and a defence splitting pass

from MoM Paul Harrold found Tom Durnford, who powered home a strike from the top of the D.

Hales again doubled their advantage from their own short corner through Durnford, before Hampton pulled one back through a penalty flick.

The visitors remained calm and negotiated the final five minutes with relative ease to record a victory that takes them back up to third in the league. Other club results saw the Seconds return to winning ways with a rousing 7-0 victory over Wolverhampton, whilst the Fourths grabbed another clean sheet and 1-0 victory versus Hampton. The Ladies 1sts lost 4-2 to Kidderminster, Mens 3rds lost 2-0 to Bridgnorth, and Mens 5ths lost 1-0 to Olton.

# Hales can't break top team's streak

**Hinckley 20 Old Halesonians 17**

**THE scene was set against the Leicestershire side who have yet to lose in the league.**

The visitors were prepared to front up and did so from the kick off. Hinckley immediately tried to impose their forward power with catch and driving mauls but Hales were up to the challenge.

The visitors led by Tom Jordan, Max Macfarlane and man of the match Loz Breese tackled and made serious ground on the home defence. However Hales were penalised allowing Hinckley to convert and lead.

The second half was more entertaining with both sides competing for every ball. The first part of the half saw Hales missing tackles resulting in an unconverted try for the home side.

Hales came back from the kick off and a solid set scrum allowed scrum half Dave Hadkiss to keep his backs on the front foot.

Hinckley were penalised at a loose maul which Chris Hooper converted.

### Supported

The home side came back with strong forward drives supported by backs for an unconverted try.

This gave Hales a chance to fight back with a dominant pack providing good ball which Dave Hadkiss exploited for an individual break and try, converted by Hooper.

Against the run of play, a misunderstanding by two Hales players, from a Hinckley kick off, saw the ball run free for a pick up and converted try for the home side.

Hinckley were under pressure and collapsed the maul resulting in the referee awarding a penalty try converted by Hooper to complete the scoring.

This Saturday Old Hales first team play Lichfield at home, kick off 2.15 pm

**Hinckley 2nds 33 Old Halesonians 2nds 17**

Following a period of sustained pressure the home side moved the ball quickly for their outside centre to score an unconverted try after seven minutes of play.

The Old Hales defence was stretched and the Hinckley inside centre went over for an unopposed try.

The conversion was successful.

## Title-winner Perry signs on again



From left, Graham Drury, team manager, Tom Perry and Tony Mole, owner. Pic Claire Swatman

**TITLE-WINNING** skipper Tom Perry is back with Birmingham for the defence of their National League crown next season.

The 22-year-old quickly put pen to paper with the Surestop Brummies for a second successive season after being given permission by his parent club Cradley.

The Midlands rider joins youngsters Jack Parkinson-Blackburn and Jack Smith as confirmed

members of the 2016 septet and team manager Graham Drury has already appointed him club captain once again.

Drury said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that we've got Tom back on board and I'm really looking forward to working with him again."

"He was a pleasure to deal with last season and he was a huge part of the team both on and off track."

"You know what you're going to get with Tom – a fully committed performance in each and every meeting and someone who is a reliable team member at the top end."

"Tony Mole gave him the captain's role last season and he was everything you'd want your team captain to be. I know this is yet another signing that will please our supporters."

## Beating the Gunners has given Albion a boost

ALBION defender Chris Brunt says Saturday's victory over Arsenal has taken the pressure off the club.

The Baggies are halfway through a daunting run of six games against Leicester, Man United, Arsenal, West Ham, Spurs and Liverpool.

Five of those teams are in current top six and the other match is a trip to Anfield, but Brunt isn't worried about playing the big teams.

"We've got a lot of tough games coming up over the next three or four weeks and that maybe takes a little bit of pressure off you if you've got a result in one of them," said Brunt.

"On our day we're capable of beating anybody, hopefully that can be the start of a bit of a run."

"We started well after the last international break so hopefully we can go to West Ham and get a result."

Albion have now won three of their last five games and the two that were lost were against the current top two. Saturday's victory means Tony Pulis' side have now beaten Man United, Chelsea, and Arsenal in the last six months.

Brunt had an eventful game. After Olivier Giroud nodded Arsenal in front it was the left-back's floated free-kick which James Morrison guided over Petr Cech for the equaliser.

It was also his push on Alexis Sanchez which gave away the penalty eight minutes from time.

He picked up his fifth yellow card of the season for the challenge and will miss this Sunday's game at Upton Park.

## Bailey proves too hot for Wren's Nest

**St Martin's 4 Wren's Nest 1**

WREN'S Nest were unable to cope with St Martin's hot-shot Karl Bailey as they slumped to a 4-1 defeat in Oswestry in the West Midlands Division One.

Bailey opened his account on 21 minutes before seeing another effort tipped onto the upright by keeper Aaron Morris less than 15 minutes later.

Wren's Nest levelled through Alistair Brown's header on 51 minutes.

But the Saints restored their lead on the hour when Bailey crossed for Dan Graham to convert.

Sam Thomas then set up Bailey to make it 3-1 on 75 minutes before the striker sealed his hat-trick deep in injury time from Sam Nash's pass.

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## Running club tackles cross country trails

IT was back to cross country action this week for athletes from Dudley King-swinford Running Club as the blue hounds fielded a men and women's team in the Midlands Cross Country Championships in Wolverhampton.

With the women covering five miles and the men a further lap giving them a total of seven it was a muddy and testing afternoon.

Lorna Hulme was first back for the ladies team in 15th place in 35.27, Tracy Alderson, making her cross country club debut, took 31st place in 38.21. Lynn Sprague was 61st in 42.23, Karen Doy 65th in 42.59, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker finished next in 43.07, Sally McConville 83rd in 47.29, Sam Hemmings 89th in 48.23 and Charlotte Tonks came home in 50.35 to take 96th.

The ladies were placed 7th overall behind the winners Birmingham Running & Triathlon Club, Notts AC and Wolves & Bilston.

With the men going off an hour later it was down to Ben Foster to bring them home in an excellent 10th place in 41.46 with Matt Biggs in 23rd in 42.59, James Wright 39th in 45.11, Darran Bishop 59th in 47.15, Dave Norman 69th in 48.28 and Mark Homer in 50.00 making up the scorers.

Simon Blizard was only five seconds adrift finishing in 50.05 in 81st having started fast, Mark Judge finished 91st in 51.25, Kieran Platt was 98th in 52.04, Stephen Parr outsprinted Graham Wildgoose to just get his nose in front on the line with the pair finishing in 105th in 52.29 and 106th in 52.32 respectively.

Pete Hood was 109th in 52.55, Andy Weaver finished in 57.19 to take 122nd and John Andrews was 128th in 59.43, the men's team taking 6th place with the medals going to a strong Notts AC team, Cannock and Staffs and Tipton Harriers.

## A late deflection takes chance of a draw from Tivs

### Tividale 1 Coalville 2

A deflected shot a minute from time denied Tividale a share of the points as high-riding Coalville Town won their Evo-Stik Division One battle in the last part of the game.

Coalville were all over the hosts in the first 20 minutes and had lots of opportunities to go ahead.

With Nial Rodney and Jake Wooley both missing great chances.

Tividale took the lead on 37 minutes when Malachi Farquharson turned his marker and fired into the top right-hand corner.

But the game turned in one second half minute.

On 59 minutes Farquharson hit the post and straight from the clearance Coalville broke and a Tom Byrne cross took a deflection for Jack Wooley to stab home the equaliser.

The luck was now with Coalville and on 89 minutes a Wooley cross took a wicked deflection and ended in the roof of the Tividale net to ruin their chances of sharing the points.

## Jordanne loses out in tennis final

JORDANNE WHILEY has been defeated in the final of the 2015 Nottingham Indoor Wheelchair Tennis Tournament.

Eventual winner Diede de Groot won in three sets after losing the first to Halesowen's Whiley.

World number nine de Groot, who started the tournament unseeded, overcame top British seed Whiley 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 to clinch her first ITF 1 Series singles title.

Whiley came from 2-0 down to lead the women's final for the first time at 4-3 before reeling off the last two games of the opening set.

However, de Groot twice came from two games adrift herself in the second set and took the last

### Tennis

three games to force the decider. The 18-year-old Dutchwoman, who had already beaten the world number five and world number six en route to the final, made what proved to be a decisive breakthrough to lead the final set 5-3.

Whiley saved three match points from 40-0 down to narrow the deficit, but it was not enough as de Groot converted her next match point for one last break of serve to seal the biggest singles success of her career.

"To be honest I still can't really believe it," said

de Groot. "I didn't really have any expectations this week, I just wanted to play really good and be satisfied with how I'd played when I got home and I can certainly be very satisfied now."

"I didn't quite know what to expect today apart from the fact that Diede's had a great week," said Whiley.

"I've never played her before and she played really well again today and I wasn't able to take my chances."

"I'll need to take the chances I get at the Masters in a couple of weeks and everything is now geared to performing at my best there," she added.

# YELTZ STREAK STANDS AT SIX

**Halesowen Town 2 Ramsbottom United 1**  
**HALESOWEN** have extended their unbeaten run to six league games.

The streak continues after on-loan duo Reece Hales and Keyon Refzell both found the target with trademark goals against rock-bottom Ramsbottom.

Ramsbottom's Markus Porcha cleared Halesowen's best chance of the first half, off the line when a shot from Danny Bragoli was heading for the target after 17 minutes.

But the visitors showed plenty of fight to belie their status and Dan Platt produced an excellent save from Shelton Payne's 29th minute curling shot.

The Yeltz continued to struggle to make inroads as a 39th minute corner from Aaron Griffiths was headed over by Refzell.

Hales finally provided the vital spark after 58 minutes when his 22 yard direct free-kick struck the inside of the post before nestling in the net - his third goal from direct free-kicks in four games.

### Dangerous

But the lead lasted barely two minutes as the ever dangerous Payne was bundled over by Chris Westwood in the penalty area and Payne buried the Rams' equaliser from the penalty spot.

Reffell and Hales both flashed further efforts wide before Refzell rose to head Halesowen's winner at the far post from a Griffiths corner in the 82nd minute.

Hales almost converted another late direct free-kick after 85 minutes but the ball rebounded off the base of the post to frustrate the home side and leave the scores unchanged.

Halesowen Town: Platt; Connolly, Griffiths, Denny (c), Morrison, Westwood (Gueyes 77), Charlton, Bragoli, Refzell, Daniels (Waite 69), Hales.

Subs Not Used: Cooper, Rosser, Summerfield. Ramsbottom United: Shenton; Bromley, Grimshaw, Porcha, Edmundson, Heywood, Kuba-Kuba (Smith 77), Crothers, Payne, Meaney, Pritchard.

Subs Not Used: Tuohy, Cliffe, Gibson, Doyle. Attendance: 323

## Toffees not so sweet for Villa



Kieran Richardson is given the runaround by Gerard Deulofeu down Villa's left

### Everton 4 Villa 0

VILLA slumped to a heavy first defeat under Remi Garde in his second game in charge as braces from Ross Barkley and Romelu Lukaku condemned the Premier League basement boys to a thrashing at Everton.

Barkley put the Toffees ahead in the 17th minute, finishing at the far post when Brad Guzan turned Gerard Deulofeu's effort his way. Lukaku then headed home in the 28th minute, before poor Villa defending allowed Barkley to add another three minutes before half-time.

Lukaku notched his second just before the

hour-mark, with Barkley and Deulofeu again involved on an afternoon the young trio truly shone. While Everton boss Roberto Martinez will be delighted to see his team produce another impressive display after the 6-2 thumping of Sunderland last time out at Goodison Park, this was a hugely concerning spectacle for opposite number Garde, whose side remain five points adrift of safety at the foot of the table.

Everton dominated possession from the off, and it was not long before they broke the deadlock.

Guzan was only able to parry it into the path of Barkley to score.

## Baggies team look to shop in January

ALBION need to do a lot of business in January, says first-team coach Ben Garner.

Garner reckons if a Premier League club does not utilise every window to its full potential it will fall by the wayside. "Every window is important for a club like ours," said Garner. "You've got to try to improve. Whether that's two players, three, four, or five, you need to improve on what you've got."

"That's not being disrespectful to the players we've got, it's evolution. We need to improve the team and the players that are here need to rise to that as well. We want players that are going to take these [existing] players forward and challenge them to make them better."

Garner joined the club at the start of October and previously held a coaching role under Tony Pulis at Crystal Palace.

The 35-year-old pointed out that Pulis has signed some important players during the shorter window.

"I've seen it before when Tony was at Crystal Palace," said Garner. "He signed some really good players. Scott Dann, Joe Ledley, Wayne Hennessey, Jason Puncheon was a loan made permanent."

"Those players really took that team to another level and I think that's what we need to do here."

Pulis says Albion are looking for wingers, full-backs and a midfielder in January, and chief scout Jeff Baskerville has been working hard.

When Garner was brought in, part of his remit was recruitment.

"I've been speaking with Jeff in terms of putting profiles together for positions," explained Garner.

"So the scouts have now got profiles to work to."

"For example if we're looking for a centre-half, there's specific attributes that a centre-half needs to have."

## Villa fans warned security will tighten

VILLA have issued some guidelines to supporters ahead of their forthcoming Premier League games as they increase security at Villa Park in the wake of the Paris terror attacks.

Starting with Saturday's home clash with Watford, supporters will be subjected to spot checks with metal detectors in the turnstile area, as well as spot checks on vehicles.

All bags will be searched so fans are asked not to take one, unless absolutely necessary. All fans are asked to arrive no later than 30 minutes before kick-off - 2.30pm for Saturday and approach the turnstiles with coats and jackets open.

### ★★★

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